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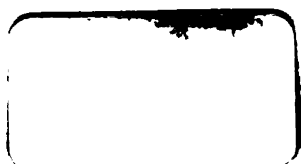


OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

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OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY,

BEING

TWO SERIES OF PAPERS

PUBLISHED IN

THE OXFORD CHRONICLE & BERKS & BUCKS GAZETTE

DURING THE YEAR 1859.



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MDCCCLIX.

PREFACE.

SPENCE tells an amusing story of the great French preacher, Bourdelot, that when engaged in the preparation of his sermon for Good Friday, he found his spirits so deprest with the gloom of his subject that he was driven to seek relief in his fiddle, so that the verger, on entering the room to summon him to the delivery of his discourse, was thunderstruck to find the eloquent Father stripped to his cassock, and dancing about his room to the lively notes of a jig. We fear that most readers who open a book at its preface, are inclined to think that the author has reversed the practice of Father Bourdelot, and given the sermon *before* the jig.

We must, however, beg leave of our readers to take this opportunity of explaining, in some degree, the causes that have led to such great modifications in the original plan of these papers on "Oxford during the Last Century." It was intended by the Proprietors of the OXFORD CHRONICLE that this series should embrace the whole period from 1750 to the middle of the pre-

sent century, detailing in chronological order the more marked events of every year, the municipal changes, the local improvements, the social progress of the town. For the execution, however, of such a project it is plain that the goodwill and co-operation of the custodians of the city archives were absolutely necessary; and this co-operation, in a matter of such great civic interest, it was never doubted they would be only too ready to afford. With these expectations, the most respectful application was made for access to civic documents, but, to our great surprise (and, perhaps, to our readers' also) the request was met by a refusal. At the Spanish Queen's levee each lady used to be attended by two gallants, who were permitted to remain covered in the presence even of Majesty, on the supposition that they were too engrossed to remember anything but their mistress. A similar excuse—in the engrossing character of the pursuits in which they are engaged—may perhaps be found for our civic authorities. It will be hard, at least, to suggest any other.

We the more regret the frustration of our object because it has prevented us from giving prominent notice to the name of one whose services to his fellow-citizens have been conspicuous, and from handing down to posterity, in minute detail, some account of the efforts he has made, at great pecuniary cost, and with much personal labour, to promote the interests of his fellow-citizens, especially in the cause of education. None could have rendered us more valuable aid in this undertaking; but the gentleman to whom we allude has deprived us of this gratification by an absence of that sympathy with our labours which might have been expected from his well-known attachment to and research in our civic antiquities. We deeply regret this circumstance, as we are not unmindful of his merits, and may yet perhaps have to do full justice to the important matters to which we have just alluded.

After such disappointment we have the greater pleasure in enumerating the kind friends to whose aid so much of the information we have communicated has been owing; and particularly in mentioning the Rev. the VICE-CHANCELLOR (Dr. JEUNE), who most courteously granted our request for the loan of a book we could have obtained from no other source; Dr. ACLAND, to whom we owe similar acknowledgments; JOHN M. DAVENPORT, Esq., whose ready offer of volumes procurable from no other private sources, deserves our heartiest thanks; FREDERICK J. MORRELL, Esq., to whom we are deeply indebted for the facility of access to documents of great interest and value. We are happy to return similar acknowledgments to G. DAYMAN, Esq., and to Alderman SPIERS, who with his usual courtesy, placed unreservedly at our disposal the whole of his extensive collection of works of local interest—an offer of which we have largely availed ourselves. To Alderman W. THORP we are indebted for valuable information, and Mr. HAMMANS, Bookseller, High Street, has obliged us by the loan of several scarce and valuable works connected with our subject.

The information thus kindly communicated, as well as that which has been withheld, has led to changes of some importance in our scheme. It became impossible to persevere in the original project without rendering the papers a mere dull summary of petty and uninteresting events. It was determined, therefore, on the change of authorship at the conclusion of the First Series, to adapt them, as far as possible, to our existing sources of information; and since we could not present a chronological history, to depict in as lively a manner as possible the Life of the Times which were so fast passing away from us. Papers detailing the events of several periods were at the same time interspersed amongst the others, and it was hoped that the combination would give to our readers no incomplete idea of the Life of Oxford during the Last Century. The

Proprietors have wished to satisfy the interest which has been felt in this series by the present reprint of them, and they have only to hope, in conclusion, that their attempt, frustrated though it has been in some respects, has, on the whole, done no unimportant service in filling up a very conspicuous gap in our civic history and antiquities.



OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

OUR special theme is the last hundred years of the events belonging to Oxford; but we would fain, by way of preface to our notice of this particular period, call attention to the circumstances which make it so much a place of interest and so worthy of attention. The mere mechanical mind points to our looms and factories for the greatness of England; but the master mind which informs, directs, and governs all, which "teaches to command the fire and to control the flood," is to be found in our seats of learning; and there, after all, the presiding genius of commerce and the arts has taken her seat; "for there is no power on earth which setteth up a throne or chair of state in the spirits and souls of men, and in their cogitations, imaginations, opinions, and beliefs, but knowledge and learning." It is this power which gives commandment to the will and the understanding, and to it we are indebted for the sovereignty and pre-eminence of our country in whatever they consist. King Henry the Eighth well understood what conduced to the good governance of the realm when he judged no land better bestowed than that which is given to our Universities, discriminating between what he called "pulling down sin," in dissolving the monasteries, and the desire to overthrow our real nurseries of knowledge. Nor was the counsel given to his son and successor, by one who had caught the same sentiment, less pertinent to the end, upon a petition which had been made for dissolving all Collegiate establishments whatever: "If," said the Duke of Somerset to Edward the Sixth on this occasion, "learning decays, which of wild men maketh civil,

what else shall we look for but barbarism and tumult." Now, as to Oxford, it cannot fail to strike the student of English history how commonly that name occurs in its pages, evidencing in some degree or other its academical fame and municipal importance. We find it, indeed, linked with the earliest annals of our country in a connexion with the most momentous matters of national concern; and every succeeding age has something to tell of the story of its institutions and of the great men it has furnished for the guidance of the state by their wisdom and virtues. Nor is the name of Oxford, considered apart from those points of view which associate it in our minds with its endowments for the sake of knowledge—difficult as it will be found in manifold instances of its history to separate the connexion between them—a theme of less stirring interest.

In regard to its well-established antiquity, we are carried back at the very least to the time when our Mercian Kings had away, and it clearly existed as a corporation with chartered rights long before the Conquest; here, too, was wont to be held the witenagemotes of our Saxon ancestors, and here Alfred and his sons and other kings of England actually resided. Long before the existence of the University or any colleges, having a status as such, with a body of statutes for their government, and with exclusive rights and privileges, the city was a place of resort for learning, and had its halls, its schools and hostels; and in the particular features of these receptacles for students, of which it is said no less than three hundred have flourished, much of the interest attaching to ancient Oxford exists.

It is difficult to point out a spot upon which some one or other of these buildings did not at one time stand. Five only now remain with their ancient titles; many, from various causes, leading to a decline of the establishments from the purposes to which they had been appropriated, reverted to their original owners, the citizens, and experienced the ordinary vicissitudes incidental to property of the kind. They became shops, private residences, and inns or hostels in the modern acceptation of the term; for, formerly, religious houses afforded entertainment to travellers and strangers, and made the wants of these conveniences less necessary. The Star Inn is built on the site of what was a "receptacle for clerks," and there are vestiges of the old structure in the richly-carved wooden gables of the Railway Office annexed to it. The Roebuck occupies the place of another academical tenement, formerly called Coventry Hall; traces of Burwaldscote Hall are still to be found in the Mitre Hotel; and on the side of the Angel stood a tenement belonging to "Our Lady's Chapel" in the Church of St. Peter-in-the-East—also a place for the receptacle of clerks. The names and situations of many, though no other signs than these indications of their former existence are left, have been carefully preserved by the research and industry of our antiquaries; there is, nevertheless, hardly a street, lane, or bye-way in Oxford, especially in that portion of it which was included within the city walls, where there is not still standing some one or more of these scholastic tenements. In many instances they are easily discernible by characteristics marking the rules which guided builders of houses in former times, and exhibit contrivances adapted to usages very different from our own, a handsome exterior often presenting them eminence by the side of structures of much more questionable taste, and rebuking the genius of modern architects. The very names of these buildings form an interesting study for the light they throw upon ancient customs and the history of social progress. Glazen Hall, for example, illustrates the period when glass windows came into fashion; and there are others which, in like manner distinguish the times when stone became the common material for building houses, and slate superseded thatch; and when, further, as in the instance of the name of Chimney Hall, the having a fire of charcoal in the centre of the room ceased to be a domestic custom. We shall have occasion hereafter, for purposes connected with our details, to point out the identical spot of many of these halls, and to notice more particularly those which have become the residence of private individuals.

In the pursuits of those who originally resorted to these places of learning may in part be traced the elements of the present collegiate system. To form, however, a fuller conception of the academical history of Oxford, it would be necessary to remove in our imagination that monument of individual munificence which forms so conspicuous a feature in the grand assemblage of its public buildings,—we mean that splendid edifice the Radcliffe Library. On the area of ground where it stands the Schools were so numerous as to give pre-eminently a name to a street which then ran by them from the High Street, on the west side of St. Mary's Church. Antony Wood enumerates no less than thirty-two of these Schools, all under the government of masters in the different faculties, in this avenue alone. On the east side of the square in Cat Street stood the Halls of Tingewick, St. Thomas, and St. Catherine, from the last mentioned of which it derived its name. Between Cat Street and School Street was a communication on the north side of St. Mary's churchyard, where stood Godstow Hall, Pylet Hall, and several others, and to all of these separate Schools were annexed.

This is after all but a very imperfect description of the places of learning which flourished in Oxford, yet well accounts for the great concourse of scholars who resorted to it from all parts of Europe; and there is no good reason for thinking the twenty or thirty thousand variously stated to have been residing here at one time in any degree an exaggeration. So numerous, indeed, were they that the exercises for degrees were, from inadequacy of room in the legitimate places, performed in the shops of citizens, or in the larger apartments above them. The fall from this high estate is in many ways to be accounted for. Feuds between the scholars and the citizens, and grievous conflicts consequent upon their disputes, fires, plagues, and other visitations caused occasional secessions, and eventually the polemical animosities which distracted the nation led to a very general dispersion.

We have now to contemplate Oxford under another aspect which shows its great antiquity. Some of our present colleges are built upon the site of extinct foundations of a similar character; very slight remains are all that is left besides the records of antiquaries to attest the existence of others. This is the case with regard to the colleges of St. George and St. Mary, the former of which stood within the Castle; while the old gateway now to be seen opposite New Inn Hall is almost the only relic of the latter, though it had some distinction in the times preceding the Reformation, and was the place of residence of the

greatest scholar of the age, Erasmus, when a visitant at the University.

It is not our purpose, as it is not in our power in this brief and cursory sketch, to trace the rise and progress of all those religious houses which were established in Oxford to give effect to the grand schemes of St. Augustin and St. Benedict and other founders of the conventual system. They were very numerous. Some have merged into foundations which now contribute to give Oxford its great and merited celebrity as a place of education; others have experienced the fate of similar institutions in the country; two of them demand more particular notice. Rewley marks the spot where Edmund Earl of Cornwall, and grandson of King John, built a monastery for an abbot and fifteen monks of the Cistercian order. Its ninth and last abbot surrendered it to Henry the Eighth; and all that we can now see of it is a portion of its garden walls, and a door-way fronting the canal. From the insignificant vestiges of Osney Abbey it is scarcely possible to form an idea of its former magnificence. Now, perhaps, one of the least-attractive spots of our suburbs, it was once, for the splendour and beauty of its buildings, "one of the first ornaments and wonders of this place and nation." That a church, enriched with a variety of chapels and not less than twenty-four altars, with two lofty towers, with the house of its abbot having a hall "more befitting a common society than a private man," with its quadrangle, cloisters, and other appendages common to our old ecclesiastical establishments, and all on a corresponding scale of magnificence, should ever have existed on a spot, so varied in its present aspect, and have left hardly a material relic of itself behind, unless we may reckon the bells of Christ Church as such, would exceed the possibility of belief, but for the well-authenticated record of its grandeur, which has been handed down to us. Its renown and sumptuous style of living attracted the company of kings and nobles; and the nature of these pilgrimages may be understood from the description given of a visit paid to it by Henry III., who is said to have spent a Christmas here with "great revelling mirth."

A sorrowful reflection in no less degree attends the spectacle of the once-extensive and magnificent domain of the Dominicans and Franciscans. The name of their locality in St. Ebbe's parish is still preserved, but little more to confirm the accounts we read of the two monasteries which stood upon the island—so it is called—which was formed by the course of the Trill Mill Stream and the main river. The present occupants of the Friars will find

a difficulty in recognising the "delightful spot" it was formerly said to be. Neither Black Friars nor White Friars, however, escaped suspicion of degeneracy from the simple rules of their founders, and they, too, shared the common fate of others, and fell at the dissolution.

For a correct comprehension of the original features of Oxford, it would be requisite to present in one entire view its extinct collegiate churches, the abbeys, hospitals, and preceptories which have given place almost in every part of it to houses or other buildings erected in accordance with the demands of an increasing population; and here there is doubtless matter for regret in respect of a wanton annihilation in some instances of much that was calculated to preserve the traditions of the place, and which, under the name of improvement, has swept away many monuments of its antiquity—a remark which extends to some needless changes of the old names of streets, through ignorance or disregard of the interesting localities on which they were built.

At the outset of this survey of Oxford in the olden times we adverted to various evidences of its importance among the towns of England in its civil capacity; and to what has previously been said on this point may be added the fact of the frequent struggles for the possession of it; and this circumstance leads to the consideration of it as having been a fortified place once, and capable of making a defence against all the then known appliances of war; and it may be here incidentally observed that the history of its old walls and mural mansions affords the most certain proofs of its great antiquity. They are recognised in Doomsday Book—in which the Saxon customs of the citizens with their privileges and common pasturage of Port Meadow are also minutely recorded and acknowledged—as having had an existence in the times of Edward the Confessor. It will be requisite, however, to draw considerably upon the imagination for the picture which Oxford presented in that condition. "These walls," in the words of Dr. Ingram, "were of an oblong form, nearly square from the east end to about the middle, where they assumed a kind of parabolic curve on each side gradually contracting towards the west end, so as to form just space enough for a strong fortress or 'castellum,' constructed in the most scientific manner, and surrounded with a deep moat, gates, turrets and drawbridge." The buildings in Long Wall, Holywell, Broad Street, and the north side of the town generally shut out from our view the bastions which remain and other traces of the means Oxford has made use of at different periods for resistance to a besieging force.

All beyond the north wall was, with little exception, an open space, little gardens of the townspeople extending from the line of defence to a stream which flowed down what we now know as Broad Street, though it had previously been called Horsemonger Street, from the custom of holding a fair for horses on the spot, as well as Canditch (*Candida fossa*), from the clearness of the stream which we have mentioned.

Beaumont Palace, built by Henry I., and memorable as the birthplace of Richard Cœur de Lion, and as the favoured residence of the kings of England to the time of Edward the First, was unquestionably the most considerable spot in this quarter of the suburbs. Its spacious grounds were bounded on one side by the square—formerly a bowling green—on which now stands the city gaol. The intervening space between this and the fortifications consisted of irregular hedges on uneven ground which have given the name to it of “Broken Heyes.”

But it falls within the compass of our present notice of Oxford to give only such an account of it as is sufficient for a contrast to the change it now exhibits. Our scanty limits will not admit of a precise and exact description of many particulars which invest every nook and corner with an interest such as we cannot believe to belong to any other town in the kingdom. We could further desire, but for the impossibility of doing justice to the great mass of our materials, and the difficulty of making such a selection from them of the things which might appear most deserving of notice, to carry our readers

to every spot associated in its history with any particulars of interest or moment. We could desire to point out where once was a Royal mint, where Parliaments have been assembled, and a privy council met for deliberation on the affairs of the kingdom. Such a description is required to show fully what a prominent station Oxford, whether in its municipal or academical character, occupied in former times as well as the present, and is equally necessary to give just testimony to the privileges, immunities, and franchises it has ever enjoyed. In none, however, of the above remarks, made in reference to the schools of learning which once abounded and the conflux of students which its fame attracted from all parts of the world, do we desire to intimate that any period that has passed under review was the period of its greatest prosperity or the highest point of its most honourable reputation. They have been mentioned as facts in its history: much of the time was formerly spent in frivolous disputations and in mastering subtleties which contrast ill with the solid acquirements obtained under the present academical discipline. And so of the City; while adverting to the high position it has at all times occupied, we keep in mind that the present is that which most distinguishes it and of which we have most reason to be proud; and our purpose will be attained, if of the much that might be said, enough has been introduced to awaken a proper interest on the subject of Oxford.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. II.

In Seventeen Hundred and Fifty-nine—just one century ago—England was engaged in the memorable “Seven Years War,” under the administration of the first William Pitt, the history of whose management of the national affairs is a continued series of the most splendid successes. He was the chief moving power of the government, and communicated by his own rapid decisions and fertility of resource that vigour and alacrity to our fleets and armies, the grand result of which was a rich harvest of gain and glory to our arms both by sea and land.

Oxford was not behind the other corporations of the kingdom in her testimonies to the triumphs of the great genius of the minister, and the enthusiasm of the city in particular is stated to have been unbounded in the demonstrations of joy exhibited upon the news of our victories at Quebec and Minden, the principal achievements of 1759. During this eventful year we find the same kind of stir and bustle displayed throughout the whole County as we witnessed but a short time past in meeting the exigencies of the Russian war. “Gentlemen Volunteers who are willing to serve his Majesty King George in the Black Regiment of Light Horse are invited to meet the Hon. Captain Gordon at Woodstock, where they may receive three guineas bounty and a crown to drink his Majesty’s health, and be mounted on the best hunters that can be procured;” and the warlike aspirations of others desirous of serving in the Royal Regiment of Light Infantry are encouraged by similar inducements “to be explained to them upon repairing to Colonel Crawford at the Mitre Inn, Oxford.” The same activity is displayed

in an account given of the march through our city of companies of militia, headed by Sir Roger Newdigate, one of the representatives of the University, and of their halt at Woodstock and other places, where “they met with great civilities from the neighbouring gentlemen.” Everything we read relating to Oxford at this period shows how all-engrossing the subject of the war was in men’s minds to the exclusion of almost every other topic of a political character. There does appear certainly an endeavour to keep up party spirit in the celebration of the anniversary of the election of Sir James Dashwood and Lord Wenman—the members for the county—“to commemorate the noble appearance they made on that occasion,” as well as in the quarterly meetings of the “Old Interest”—that shibboleth of one of the factions of the day—at Burford, Chip-ping Norton, and other of our county towns; and we have before us an advertisement of the landlord of the Hare and Hounds, at Watlington, in which he offers a reward of ten pounds for the discovery of the person or persons who had maliciously reported to his prejudice that he had at some particular time “Drank damnation, on his knees, to all friends of the Old Interest in general.” Beyond this neither City nor County give signs of political feeling in 1759; there were no declaimers on rights and liberties, public grievances, or lavish expenditure; no prophetic sage to admonish on the ruinous consequences of the hostilities in which we were engaged. The fact is, that all sense of the calamities incidental to the war in its present burdens, and certain prospect of more aggravated evils in the end, appears to have

been lost in the attention given to its brilliant successes. Nor does there seem to have been at the time any ground for discontent on the score of the high prices of commodities in general. If the price of wheat be taken, as it commonly is, as a criterion of the means of subsistence within the reach of those most subject to the inconveniences of scarcity and the pressure of national embarrassments, the rate of prices, as quoted from the extant returns, would indicate a period of prosperity and plenty. Throughout the whole year of 1759 wheat never exceeded in the Oxford market nine pounds the load, while at some times it was as low as six pounds ten shillings; and for the better understanding of these averages, as a test of the home demand, we must bear in mind that England was then an exporting country; she did not sow for herself alone, and a bounty was paid upon every quarter of wheat sent from her ports for consumers in other countries. As another instance of the cheapness of provisions at this time, "Fine old Cheshire Cheese" was advertised to be sold in Oxford at threepence halfpenny per pound.

The trade of Oxford at the period of our survey does not present any striking or remarkable features, nor anything from which it is possible to infer that it was a place of business; peruke-makers abounded, and travelling tailors came with their assortments of "superfine for gentlemen, fustain or shag for servants, gold and silver lace, scarlet dominies and scarlet cloaks." From these latter particulars may be gathered some acquaintance with the prevailing fashion in articles of apparel, and the contrast it affords to our present usages. But much greater was the difference as to our customs in other respects, in the taste for amusements, in the manner of spending leisure hours, and in the mode of travelling. With regard to the last-mentioned resource, to accomplish the distance between Oxford and London in one day was considered a great accommodation afforded to the public:—"A Flying Machine, *allowed by Dr. Randolph, the Vice Chancellor*, is advertised to set out from John Kemp's, over against Queen's College, in the High Street, six times a week during the summer season, at five in the morning;" and to a similar notification of a like conveyance under the same denomination, the proprietor appends a *Nota Bene* that "this machine goes in one day all the year." These announcements, however, may rather be taken as a sign of the greater demand for conveyances of the sort than as evidence of very much increased expedition in travelling; for we have in the diary of Anthony Wood the following memorandum:—

"Monday, April 26, 1669, was the first day that the flying coach went from Oxon to London in one day. A. W. went in the same coach, having then a boot on each side. Among the six men that went, Mr. Richard Holloway, a counsellor of Oxon (afterwards judge) was one. They then (according to the Vice-Chancellor's order, stuck up in all public places) entered into the coach at the tavern door against All Souls' College, precisely at six of the clock in the morning, and at seven at night they were all set downe at their inn, at London."

The diversions of the people of Oxford a hundred years ago do not evince great refinement, and sporting of every kind was in vogue. Cooking found patrons in Lord Lieutenants and others of high degree, when a match was to be fought between "the gentlemen of Oxfordshire" and some other county. Racing, too, held out its temptations to the betting fraternity at almost all our towns in the usual shape of sweepstakes, plate, and cup, to be run for at their respective races. Ringing and singing for a hat, playing at broadsword for a like prize or its equivalent in specie, formed the pastime of the Whitsuntide holidays; and we meet with a "Notice given to the Public of a Hog to be Barbecued at Tit-up Hall" (a noted place of rendezvous under Shotover Hill) for the further attraction of company at this season.

Coffee houses were places of great resort and were very numerous in the city; they were different in their kind from what we now understand by those of the same name. Warton, in his humorous *jew d'esprit*, "The Companion to the Guide and the Guide to the Companion," has given them a celebrity; and from this satirical description of the academical routine of study we may see how time was spent in them:—"The prevailing notion is equally erroneous with regard to the number of our libraries. Besides those of Radcliffe and Bodley and the private Colleges, there have been of late years many libraries founded in our Coffee Houses for the benefit of such of the academicks as have neglected, or lost, their Latin or Greek. * * * As there are here books suited to every taste, so there are liquors adapted to every species of reading. Amorous tales may be perused over Arrack Punch and Jellies; Insipid Odes over Orgeat or Capillaire; Politics over Coffee; Divinity over Port; and Defences of bad Generals and bad Ministers over Whipt Syllabubs. In a word, in these libraries instruction and pleasure go hand in hand; and we may pronounce, in a literal sense, that learning no longer remains a *dry* pursuit." The proprietors of these houses had every consider-

ation for the convenience of their customers, and we have a clever touch of the poet Laureate's humour in his description of that part of business called booking. "With regard to the *manuscripts* of these libraries, they are oblong folios, bound in parchment, lettered on the plan of Mr. Locke's Common Place Book, written by and kept under the sole care of the librarian. These manuscripts, which in progress of time amount to many volumes, are carefully preserved in the *archives* of each respective library." Anthony Wood, to whom we shall often have occasion to refer for interesting particulars concerning Oxford, has thought an account of the original establishment of these houses deserving a place in his academical annals. "The first coffee-house in Oxford," he informs us, "was opened in the year 1650 by Jacob, a Jew, at the Angel, in St. Peter-in-the-East, and there it was by some, who delighted in novelties, drank. In the year 1654, Cirques Jobson, a Jew and Jacobite, borne near Mount Libanus, sold coffee in Oxon, in an house between Edmund Hall and Queen's College. In this year [1655] Arth. Tillyard, apothecary and great royalist, sold coffee publicly in his house against All Soules' Coll. He was encouraged to do so by some royalists, now living in Oxon, and by others who esteemed themselves either *virtuosi* or *wits*." Among these virtuosi was Sir Christopher Wren. We have preferred to give the spelling and quaint style of the antiquary, to whose researches we are so much indebted for what is known of the City and University, for their peculiar zest, and the insight they give us of the man.

The great event of the year 1759 was the installation of the Earl of Westmoreland, who had been made Chancellor of the University upon the death of the Earl of Arran. It took place upon the 8th of July, and appears to have created all the interest ordinarily attaching to those solemnities, but nothing more; it was, in the main, the same drama we have ourselves seen several times enacted under a new cast of performers, with the usual processions, recitations of academical exercises, speeches, and oratorios. The reception given to the new Chancellor was unquestionably a flattering affair, and marked the respect felt for his character, and the distinction conferred upon him. He made a public entrance into the city by the East Gate, and was attended by a long train of the coaches and equipages of the nobility who had accompanied him for some distance on the Wycombe road. In this we observe a ceremonial somewhat differing from the custom of more modern times, as well as in some of the following parti-

culars which have been given of the event. "Notice was given of his near approach by the ringing of a bell at St. Mary's Church, which called together the gentlemen of the University, who were ranged, according to their different orders and degrees, on his right hand from the East Gate to St. Mary's Church; the left hand was reserved for townsmen." Honorary degrees were conferred on this occasion upon nearly fifty individuals of various ranks, amongst whom we notice the name of Arne, the celebrated musical composer; Pye, subsequently Poet Laureate; and Sir R. Glyn, Lord Mayor and representative of the City of London, who made some figure in the political world; the others were not men of remarkable note in any public capacity. The greatest cordiality between the City and University was manifested; and respecting the general good feeling which prevailed between Gown and Town we may mention the following circumstance:—The Rev. Mr. Barton has been recently elected Warden of Merton College, and upon his return to the University to "take possession of his college," he was not only accompanied by his own Society, but by a "prodigious" number of the principal tradesmen of the town who went out to meet him in the road.

No impulse had as yet been given to any purpose, if it then existed, of bettering the condition of the inhabitants in respect of the improvement of the streets and houses. The great changes which tended to constitute its present features of attraction, and which we shall notice in their proper place—were of a later date. Nor was there at this time any uniform publicity of the proceedings of the Corporation, which seems to have been moving on in the even tenor of its way without giving any occasion for remark upon its acts or composition.

The members for the city in 1759 were the Hon. R. Lee and Sir D. Stapleton, who had lately been elected in the place of Mr. Rowney, whose eminent services, rendered to both University and City, will call from us a separate notice hereafter.

Sir J. Dashwood was High Steward of the City.

J. Lawrence, a grocer and wine merchant, was Mayor; J. Gilpin was Recorder; and T. Walker was Town Clerk.

No Custos Rotulorum had been appointed to supply the vacancy created by the demise of Charles 3rd Duke of Marlborough, who died of a fever in October, 1758, while acting as Commander-in-Chief of the British forces at Munster, in Westphalia.

A. Hodges, of Harpenden, was High Sheriff of the County.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. III.

ALTHOUGH the times for several years immediately following the period of which we took a survey in our last notice of Oxford were, in a national point of view, characterised by events of great interest and moment, we have not been able to meet with any particulars of that participation in them which generally distinguishes the city upon occasions calling from the people a display of their loyalty and attachment to the institutions of the country. George the Second died Oct. 25, 1760, and was succeeded by his grandson George the Third. On this event addresses of congratulation and condolence poured forth from all parts of the three kingdoms, all bodies, politic and corporate, vying with each other in testimonies of duty and affection; but in no chronicle of the occurrences of the day do we observe more than what this notice of the acts of the cities in general enables us to infer of the part taken by Oxford in particular. Nor do we find, as might be expected, any specific mention of the claim of the mayor and burgesses to serve, according to their charter, with the citizens of London in the office of butlership to the king on his approaching coronation. This claim was allowed at the coronation of his predecessor, when it appears to have been resolved, by a Court which sat for that purpose, to regulate the several pretensions of persons to do service at that solemnity by the precedent of what had occurred at the coronation of James II. and his queen. As we have observed, this claim of the mayor and burgesses was allowed, with three maple cups for their fee; and to the mayor of Oxford was presented a high gilt bowl and cover richly chased, of 110 ounces, as a gift from the king to the city, with his Majesty's arms engraven on it. The origin of

this high privilege may not be known to all our readers, and we will quote from Peshall the account he gives of it—"King Richard I. was born here, and to do honour and service to his native place, especially as he was going abroad into foreign parts, thinking it would advance the strength of his dominions at home, *confirms* a Mayor with the addition of two Aldermen, that the Oxford citizens' rights and privileges should be the same, and in as ample a manner as the City of London; that the Mayor should be butler at his Coronation Feast, with other privileges to be given; in return for which tokens of his favour conferred on them, to redeem him out of the imperial hands, where he was a prisoner in Germany, they cheerfully raised a large sum of money. I mention this circumstance as a just commendation due to the Oxonians for their gratitude." It is important to notice in this quotation the word *confirms* (which we have printed in italics) for the privilege had been bestowed upon the citizens by Henry I, son of William the Conqueror.

There is a more minute account recorded of the proceedings of the University on the occasion of the accession of George III. An address from this body was presented to his Majesty by Dr. Browne, the Provost of Queen's College, in his capacity of Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the High Steward, Lord Lichfield, both the representatives, Sir R. Newdigate and Peregrine Palmer, and many other distinguished personages who were at the time or had been members of the University. The protestations of devotion and "fidelity to the monarchy on the most trying occasions," expressed in this address, were subsequently borne in mind by

Wilkes, who, in a number of the *North Briton*, sought to test the sincerity of these expressions by reference to the political antecedents of the University, much after the style of Nicholas Amherst, who, when he took up for his theme the loyalty of Alma Mater, said he supposed it meant that she "always espoused one side or the other."

It might probably occur to some who have a good recollection of the history of parties at that period, that judging from the generalities of the King's answer to this address, he had been influenced by a knowledge of the unswerving attachment of the University to the family of Ormonde, and by traditions of some toasts drank to the health of James the Third, as well as of some other suspicious evidences of no great devotion to the House of Brunswick; and we may remark that a riot which had broken out in Oxford on the occasion of some young men drinking the health of the Pretender, was one of the historical events of the year no further ago than 1749. The following passage in his Majesty's answer to the address of the University reads indeed like a lesson to those who had something to learn of the more sure road to Royal favour; "Sound principles of religious and civil duties, and enforced by examples of true piety and loyalty in so eminent a seat of learning cannot fail to diffuse the happiest influence on Church and State, and will always ensure to you my constant favour and protection." Be it as it may, the course adopted by the University was, if it indeed may be considered to have been necessary, calculated to remove the weight of any unfavourable impressions, and with the accession of the King a new political era commenced. In the fervour of their zeal they presented to the King, through their Vice-Chancellor, a printed book of their verses of condolence and congratulations in different languages. These poetical effusions, however, possessed no great merit, if, at least, the following *jew d'esprit*,—of no great merit itself,—is a just criticism of their excellence as literary compositions:—

"When good George the second
By Pluto was beckoned
In peace to retire to his cell,
The grief of the nation
On this sad occasion
Both Oxford and Cambridge must tell.

Vice Chancellors, Doctors,
Professors and Proctors,
With Lords to ennoble the train,
In Hebrew and Greek,
As the muse bade them speak,
Each sings a most sorrowful strain.

"To Isis or Cam,
For this pitiful sham,
The preference where shall I lay?
O, Isis! your song,
As 'tis four times as long,
Has four times the worst of the day."

Every incident was seized for a renewal of these demonstrations of loyalty and attachment to the reigning family, and it is observable in the choice of subjects for orations to be delivered in the Theatre, in more than one of the succeeding Commemorations. This circumstance affords the opportunity of remarking that learning in the University found a great promoter in Dr. Wilson, a prebendary of Westminster, whom we find giving prizes of four five-guinea pieces each for the best Latin and English compositions in the years 1761 and 1762. In the last-mentioned year the Earl of Westmoreland died. He was succeeded by Lord Lichfield as Chancellor, and installed at his seat at Ditchley. The ceremony usually performed in the University was, "in honour of his Lordship" (the new Chancellor), as we read, dispensed with, though not without precedent.

We have before adverted to the scantiness of our materials for any particulars relating to the city at the commencement of the reign of George the Third; and the remark applies to the absence of all notice of occurrences connected with it in the historical registers of events for several subsequent years; but we hope to supply all important omissions by further research. One occurrence, however, we do meet with and will mention for the purpose of showing the lawlessness of the times, and the contrast they afford to the power possessed by the civil authorities at the present time in controlling ebullitions of popular feeling. Isaac Darling, alias Dumas, the most notorious highwayman of the day, was executed at Oxford March 21, 1761, for robbing Mr. Robert Gammon of his watch and money, near Nettlebed. He displayed the most reckless indifference to life at his trial and execution, the thought of being anatomised being the only matter of concern with him. A large body of bargemen attended the execution and carried off his body in triumph to the next parish church, where, while some rung the bells, others opened the body and filled it with slack lime and then buried it. This man displayed the greatest coolness at the gallows, adjusting his neck for the rope and throwing himself off the ladder. He affected the character of Macheath which he delighted to personate in all the delineations given of it in the Beggars Opera, and had been previously acquitted at Salisbury for robbing Lord Percival, with whom he had had a desperate encounter.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. IV.

It is our object to lay before the readers of these papers on Oxford the occurrences connected with it in a regular succession, as far as it is possible, from the period which we took as our starting point, and with as much circumstantial particularity also as will not too greatly interfere with the comprehensive and general purposes of a newspaper. The scantiness of materials within our reach with respect to the events of the first period of our century—a circumstance which has already been noticed—presents in our way some obstacles to the perfect execution of this plan; and we may add, that—perhaps from ignorance of the proper mode of addressing ourselves to some, capable of rendering us very efficient assistance by means of the information they possess—we have moreover experienced unlooked-for difficulties, so far as the time in question is concerned, on matters of local interest to Oxford men, and which all Oxford men ought to know. But an abundant harvest is in prospect, and we now proceed to our gleanings of the three or four years immediately following the last details which have been given. The treaty signed at Fontainebleau, in 1762, for the purpose of bringing to an end the hostilities in which England had taken part in order to adjust the political interests of Europe by a settlement of that difficult problem, the balance of power, was very unpopular; and the general dissatisfaction it produced throughout the country, on the ground of its inadequate results, extended to Oxford. Nevertheless, the usual demonstrations followed upon the Proclamation of the Peace in the following year. An affair of this kind was formerly one of more than ordinary concern to our citizens. The civic ceremony observed on the like

occasions in more recent times has not been of a very imposing character, and affords no means of judging of the importance attached to display at the times of which we write. We will give a description from a manuscript, entrusted to us, of the proceedings which took place at Oxford on the proclamation of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, Feb. 10th, 1748-49, thinking it cannot fail to be read with a considerable degree of interest from the circumstantial detail it gives of a now obsolete custom. On this occasion we find that, as a preliminary proceeding, additional constables were made for the preservation of order. The various trade Companies of the city assembled, each attended with its own band of French horns, drums, and other musical instruments, on foot. The several Companies of the Shoemakers, Mercers, Grocers, Hatters, Glovers, and Butchers wore red and white cockades. The decorations of the Masons' Company were of red and blue colour; the badge of the Smiths was red and orange. The Keeper of Bocardo, the City Marshal, the City Constables, the Mayor's Sergeant, accompanied by two trumpeters, all rode on horseback. The city music followed on foot. Then on horseback, also, each having one attendant, came the Bailiff's Sergeants, the Town Clerk, the Macebearer, the Bailiffs, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Assistants, with the other members of the Council. The procession started from the Town Hall, and at the Conduit on Carfax the proclamation of peace was read. Thence the cavalcade took its course down the High Street to St. Mary's Church, where the Vice-Chancellor, Heads of Houses, Noblemen, Professors, and Proctors were assembled to meet the Corporation, and to hear the peace proclaimed again. They afterwards

proceeded round the town to perform the same ceremony at the four different gates of the city, first at East Gate, then at South Gate, then at West Gate, and lastly at North Gate, whence they returned to the Town Hall. All the bells rang a peal at the same time. Flags were flying throughout the day on all the churches. The citizens wore new white cockades. There were fireworks at night, the *Conduit running with wine!*

The manuscript, which we have almost literally followed in this account of the ceremonial formerly observed on the proclamation of peace, is the diary of a private individual, who appears to have taken a special interest in the affairs of the city without designing his memoranda for publication; nor did he perhaps contemplate their future service in throwing light on the commercial part of the history of Oxford. Yet here, among other things, we find in existence the various trades of the town severally associated, without question for that protection of their respective interests, which does not now appear to be needful; and we see at one glance what the commercial character of the place was by the nature of the trades in demand for the uses of the community a little more than a hundred years ago, with the evidence the fact affords of the very trifling change in this respect that time and circumstances have produced.

We have farther testimony of the kind of state kept up by these Companies in an account, taken from the manuscript memoranda of Dr. Rawlinson, in the Bodleian Library, of the reception given to the Prince of Orange on his visit to Oxford a few years previous to the occurrence just described, when "the Mayor and Aldermen, and all the Companies with their banners displayed and drums beating, met him at the North Gate of the city and attended him to the Town Hall, where in the Council Chamber he was entertained with wine and his freedom." It is perhaps too much to consider these companies as vestiges of the old "*Fraternities or Guilds Mercatorial*" of Oxford, but we may take this opportunity of observing that incorporation of the trades existed as far back as the Norman Conquest, and a record of the renewal of the Cordwainers' Charter in the time of Henry II. is adduced as a proof, among others, of the great antiquity of the City.

A Maiden Assizes at Oxford in the summer of 1763 is a circumstance which has been thought worthy of note by the chroniclers of the time, and it had its significance when they had to record capital convictions without end on almost every other circuit in the kingdom. Then, indeed, a more san-

guinary code of penal laws was in force than can be found in the whole history of executive justice, and the numerous executions which took place cannot be held as any proof of the prevalence of crime, when in the eye of the law almost all offences were equally flagitious and were equally punishable with death.

The county, however, does not meet with such favourable notice in the reports of the administration of the law during the three following years, which included no less than 17 capital convictions, besides many sentences of transportation for life. In the case of three men, upon whom the last-mentioned sentence was pronounced at the Oxford Assizes in 1764, and who had been found guilty of stealing money from the box of the club to which they belonged, a point of law was started touching the property, which by the indictment was invested in a Mr. Galten, in whose custody it had been left by the society in question, and for which he had given his note-of-hand as a security; but Mr. Justice Wilmot overruled the objection on the ground that money accumulated by a society ceased to be the property of individuals, and that the person who took charge of it was answerable; and in this view of the case Mr. Justice Adams, with whom he communicated by note across the court, without stating his own conclusion on the law, concurred. His Lordship, on overruling the exception taken by the prisoners' counsel, enumerated different cases in which the act of a man stealing his own property was felonious, as, for instance, with regard to things he had pawned, things which he had left with a tailor to make up, and things delivered to a carrier for conveyance.

Passing to the affairs of the University in 1763—the *Encænna* of that year was selected by the Academical body as the occasion for giving effect to its approval of the management of public affairs; and this they did by some accessories to the ordinary display at a Commemoration designed to mark it as an event "in honour of the peace." But there was nothing after all in the three days' demonstration, which gives it a title to the character of a remarkable occurrence, or calls for more than this general notice; unless we may advert to the appearance on the stage of a *Terræ Filius*, who, despite the danger of an academical mittimus to the Castle or Bocardo, rose up to assert "the privilege of his family." He was not, however, a veritable descendant of those quasi statutable personages who claimed a right, as established by the ancient forms of the University, to exercise their talents for satire and railery at every celebration of the Act, and who,

as the occasions of the times supplied matter, were accustomed to make very free on the Rostrum of the Theatre with the public and private character of those drest in authority, until at length their freedom of speech, exceeding all bounds of moderation or decency, brought about a discontinuation of their office. He, notwithstanding, though announced as a mere out-door actor, produced by the programme of his intended performances no little consternation among unmatriculated, as well as matriculated, equally in dismay at anticipated revelations, as if the sallies of his wit could not touch a gown and cassock without glancing off upon the fame of some town celebrities. It was rumoured that the Mayor and corporation were first seized with the panic, and were for taking steps; but, upon its being held to be an University business and to fall more properly under the cognizance of the House of Convocation, "from the body corporate," so says our authority, "the cause was removed, by a new kind of *certiorari*, to the body academical." Yet after all, *Terræ Filius*—and we believe he is the last that has appeared in any shape—proved in the end a harmless satirist, and did nothing seriously to disturb the usual course of the solemnities and festivities.

There is nothing in the public proceedings of either the City or University during the year 1764, calling for observation or requiring particular detail. But it was not altogether an uneventful period; a violent storm on the 23rd of June did incalculable damage in the county, and some remarkable physical phenomena—the more striking, for their occurrence in the same year, and being confined to one part of the kingdom—are worthy of notice. The following description is given in the "Philosophical Transactions," of a meteor seen at Oxford, on March 5th, at eleven o'clock p.m., by the Rev. J. Swinton. It presented itself to the eye in the form of a pyramidal column of very bright light in the southern hemisphere, the base resting on a line apparently between twenty or thirty degrees above the horizon, and afterwards gradually ascended nearly thirty degrees; after it had attained its utmost height, it remained fixed, darting out, as it grew fainter, white rays and coruscations towards the west. We read, also, of another, seen by the inhabitants of Oxford on April 23, between 8 and 9 p.m., which is represented as having formed a luminous arch, extending in its span from N.W. to S.E., so as to bisect the heavens. It was exceedingly resplendent, perfectly semi-circular, and resembled an iris, but of a bright white colour. To these accounts, which we note more particularly for those who make nature and the objects of science their pursuit, we have to add

the singular effects of a severe frost which happened on the borders of Wychwood Forest on the night of February 13. A noise resembling thunder or some explosion first called attention to the phenomenon, when it was found that arms of huge oaks and elms had been brought to the ground by the weight of the ice, with which they were incrustated, to an incredible thickness. The roads were so completely blocked up by the fallen branches of the trees that it was necessary to employ labourers in great numbers to make them passable, and many hundred loads were removed before the object could be accomplished. Upon experiment it was ascertained that the body of ice collected on each plant was twenty times heavier than the plant itself, a fact which can only be accounted for by an immediate and intense congelation of the rain that had fallen on the trees. The occurrence of a somewhat similar phenomenon in Blenheim Park on the evening of the 29th of November, 1797, when nearly a thousand loads of wood were destroyed by a frost, is recorded by Dr. Mavor, who also remarks upon the peculiar circumstance of its effects being confined to that spot.

But a much greater sensation was produced this year by the shock of an earthquake which was felt at Oxford Nov. 4. Its general effect is described as that of a reverberating agitation throughout the town, attended with a rumbling noise, occasioned, as it were, by the continued falling of something on the floors of the houses. In the bedchambers of the colleges, as well as of other stone-built structures, the doors bounded, and some sprang open as if rushed against or yielding to violent pressure; and the houses in general were so shaken as to set all their bells ringing, many persons being tossed out from their beds—it happened at 4.15 a.m.—by the force of the shock. All parts of the city were not equally affected, the agitation near the river being most violent and perceptible. A very tempestuous hurricane followed, but no great damage was done.

In carrying out our purpose of noticing the chief occurrences of the period of survey proposed for this Paper, we are brought to the riots of 1766, which, though general in the kingdom, seem to have been marked with such special circumstances of aggravation in the county of Oxford as to demand the special attention of the Government. At the General Quarter Sessions, held Oct. 7, the following letter from the Secretary of State to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, was read:—"His Majesty having received advices of the riots and disorders committed in dif-

ferent parts of the county of Oxford, particularly in the towns of Oxford and Woodstock, under pretence of distress from the high prices of wheat and other provisions; and his Majesty having reason to think that, notwithstanding the several steps taken by the Government by removing the cause of these complaints (by proclamations and orders of council issued, as well as by marching of troops to places where riots have happened), these disorders have rather increased than diminished, and the mobs have become daily more numerous and insolent; and his Majesty's troops being in consequence of the many applications from variety of places, almost entirely disposed of in or as near as possible the places infested with these disorders, his Majesty commands his Secretary of State to acquaint his Grace that, having the greatest confidence in his prudence, spirit, and zeal for the public service, he thinks that from his Grace's weight and influence of personal character, and great property in the county, the most essential service may be expected; his Majesty therefore will, both by his authority and advice, give that vigour and energy to the exercise of the several powers of government which may effectually tend to suppress this evil, in which his Grace is promised all the aid and support with which the Crown or its servants can give on this important occasion. His Grace is likewise assured that if anything of consequence shall occur that may appear necessary to be imparted to his Majesty, such advice or information will be received with the utmost regard and attention." Upon this official document being read the Magistrates unanimously agreed to use the most vigorous measures for suppressing all future outrages. These outrages had, indeed, been carried to a great extent; the mob at Oxford had attacked all the adjacent mills, from which they brought away all the flour they could seize upon, and divided it in the market place, and at Henley the Riot Act was read before the rioters could be dispersed. The scarcity and high price of provisions which had produced these disturbances were occasioned by the too free exportation of corn for foreign consumption; and to

tranquillize the public mind it was found necessary by the Government to put an embargo upon all ships laden for exportation of grain, and put in force the laws against regrating, engrossing, and fore-stalling. There were perceptible signs of an approaching embarrassment in the preceding year; and with reference to Oxford, we read that, "Being price day, the clerks of the market fixed the price of wheat at 6s. 6d. per bushel, and malt at 4s. 6d.;" to which is added the remark, that at this high rate the lessees of College lands pay the reserved rents for the half-year past. Special commissions for the trial of the rioters throughout the country were issued, and at Oxford several convictions of different offenders took place.

The miscellaneous character of the above occurrences do not admit of the coherency of a regular historic narrative, nor do the subjects touched upon much elucidate the social usages of the period. The time is to come for marking a decided movement in the progress of the arts of life and a development of the intelligence of the people. From, however, the letter of the Secretary-of-State above quoted, in reference to the riots of 1766, it is easy to discern the growing influence of a political power, which subsequently exercised complete sway in both the city and county, though it is now a thing of the past; and as a guide to the political tendencies of Oxfordshire at the time, it may be observed that Sir F. Dashwood was Chancellor of the Exchequer under the premiership of the great favourite of the Crown, Lord Bute, and that the Duke of Marlborough was Lord High Chamberlain.

In 1763, W. Ives was Mayor, but dying in his Mayoralty, J. Treacher was chosen in his place.

In the years 1764, 1765, 1766, R. Tawney, Philip Ward, and J. Phillips were respectively elected to that office.

In 1766, G. Nares, Sergeant-at-Law, was appointed Recorder, in the place of J. Gilpin. This eminent lawyer had been previously Town Clerk, was subsequently elected M.P. for the city, and eventually became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. V.

Is no point of view are the events of the year 1767 such as to call for much notice. We will, however, mention—just for the value the particulars are worth, and the interest they may afford to some of our readers—what we meet with under the notabilia of the period, as tending to show that the atmospheric influences of the county in general are favourable to health and longevity. It is noticed that there were living at this time at Heyford three men and two women, whose united ages amounted to five hundred and three years; while of Oxford we find it mentioned that within a period of little more than two months, namely, between February and the 21st of May, seven persons died, whose ages put together were six hundred and six.*

Dismissing, thus briefly, an uneventful period, we come to the year 1768, memorable for a transaction of great discredit to the parties concerned in it, and which has left a blot upon the municipal character of the city. For a better acquaintance with the nature of the affair we are about to narrate, it is necessary, in the first place, to state that evident signs had been given of an approaching dissolution of Parliament, and all the engines of corruption were set in motion among the venal constituencies of the kingdom to secure seats in the ensuing one. So barefaced and flagrant was the practice, at this crisis, of buying and selling seats, that advertisements appeared in the public papers, offering

premiums for them. This state of affairs appears to have suggested to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City the idea of its being a good opportunity of getting rid of a certain incumbrance on its finances; and they consequently wrote a joint letter to their two representatives, Sir Thomas Stapleton and the Honourable Robert Lee, disclosing their pecuniary embarrassment, and offering to re-elect them, provided they advanced a sufficient sum of money—£7,500—to enable them to discharge the debt, the very interest of which was a disagreeable diminution of the city revenues. With a proper spirit and regard for their honour, Sir Thomas Stapleton and Mr. Lee laid the case before the House of Commons, and received the thanks of the House for their conduct in the transaction. Those who had signed the letter containing the corrupt offer were forthwith ordered to appear at the bar of the House, and not being able to deny the charge alleged against them, were committed to Newgate. The individuals implicated in this affair were Philip Ward, late Mayor of the city; John Treacher, Sir Thomas Munday, Thomas Wise, John Nicholls, John Phillips, Isaac Lawrence, and Richard Tawney, Aldermen of the city; Thomas Robinson and John Brown, Bailiffs. After a confinement of five days in Newgate, they petitioned the House, acknowledging their guilt, and begging to be released. This expression of their contrition had its weight, and, after receiving upon their *knees* the following severe reprimand from the Speaker of the House, Sir John Cust, they were discharged:—

“The offence of which you have been guilty has justly brought you under the severe displeasure of this House. A more enormous crime you could not well commit,

* Mr. Shepherd, St. Michael parish ...	88
Mr. Cox, St. Peter-in-the-East ...	98
Mr. Trollope, St. Giles parish ...	86
Mr. Howell, St. Giles parish ...	87
Mrs. Bagge, Magdalen parish ...	90
Mr. Smith, St. Ebbe's ...	82
Mr. Boswell, carpenter, Magdalen parish ...	90

since a deeper wound could not be given to the constitution itself than by the open and dangerous attempt which you have made to subvert the freedom and independence of this House.

"The freedom of this House is the freedom of this country, which can continue no longer than while the voices of the electors are uninfluenced by any base or venal motive. For if abilities and integrity are no recommendation to the electors; if those who bid highest for their voices are to obtain them from such detestable considerations, this House will not be the representatives of the people of Great Britain. Instead of being the guardians and protectors of their liberties, instead of redressing the grievance of the subject, this House itself will be the author of the worst grievances; they will become the venal instruments of power to reduce this happy nation—the envy and admiration of the world—to the lowest state of misery and servitude. This is the abject condition to which you have attempted to bring your fellow-subjects.

"Many circumstances concur to aggravate your offence. The place of your residence was a singular advantage. You had at all times the example of the most respectable and learned bodies of Europe before your eyes. Their conduct in every instance, but especially in the choice of their representatives, was worthy your imitation.

"You are magistrates of a great city;—in such a station it was a duty more peculiarly incumbent on you to watch over the morals of your fellow-citizens—to keep yourselves pure from all venality, and to prevent by your influence those under your government from being tainted by this growing and pestilential vice. How have you abused this trust! You yourselves have set the example of prostitution in the most public and daring manner. Surely you must have felt some remorse from the generous disdain with which your corrupt offer was rejected by your representatives. They thought, and justly thought, that a seat in this House obtained by a free and independent choice of their constituents was the highest honour to which a subject can aspire, and that discharging their duty as such representatives was the noblest of services. Sorry am I to say that these considerations do not appear to have had the least weight with you.

"However, you have at last acknowledged your guilt; and by your petition yesterday you seem conscious of the enormity of your offence. This House, in the terror of its judgments, always thinks upon mercy; nor do they ever inflict punishment but for the sake of example to prevent others from becoming the objects of their resentment.

"The censure passed upon you will, they hope, have that effect.

"You are now the objects of their mercy; and are brought to the bar to be discharged.

"May you be penetrated with a due sense of their justice and lenity! may you atone for your past offence by your constant endeavour to make a right use of the invaluable privileges which you enjoy as electors! Con-

sider those privileges as a sacred trust reposed in you—discharge it with integrity. But before you rise from your present posture I do, in obedience to the commands of this House, REPRIMAND you. I am now to acquaint you, that you are discharged, paying your fees."

It was generally affirmed, and as generally believed at the time, that none of the above parties were influenced by motives of personal interest in the part they had taken in this affair, having been solely actuated by the design of benefitting the city in their corporate capacity; but in a matter so fertile in its serious consequences to the interests of the people at large, it is extremely hazardous to attempt distinctions between public bodies and the individuals by whom they are constituted, where the purpose is to find excuse or palliation for their acts. There was also at the time an endeavour at some exculpation of the peccant Mayor and his associates by the precedents and examples to be found of a system of corruption so extensive and unrebuked throughout the country as to amount almost to a recognition of the unconstitutional practice;* but precedents and examples, which are too often only so many instances of acts of illegality and wrong done before, are now properly appreciated; and in thus pronouncing on one of the most flagrant violations of duty in public men, we may felicitate ourselves on the circumstances of our times which exact such publicity of the proceedings of governing bodies as to prevent any abuse of the powers and trusts confided in them, or which, at least, takes care that nothing of the sort shall be done with impunity. Mr. Wilkes, in his remarks on this transaction, would not allow the thanks of the House to Sir T. Stapleton and Mr. Lee to be so well merited by them, intimating that their complaint of the corrupt offer made to them did not at the first appear totally undeserving of their consideration, and that it took them some time to measure its value with the dictates of their duty; for which opinion he alleges the fact that some of the letters containing the proposition to them were written in 1766—one on the 12th of May in that year—whereas their representation of the circumstance did not take place till January 28, 1768. He

* Such was the demand for seats in the House of Commons at the time, that Lord Chesterfield, in a letter written to his son in 1767, complains that he could not find a venal borough for him. The borough-jobbers, he said, laughed at his offer of £2,500 for one, stating that they were all monopolized by the East and West Indian proprietors. G. Selwyn notoriously sold Luggershall for £9,000, and the contest for Northampton cost Lord Spencer £90,000. At Shoreham the corrupt practices were systematically carried out by a party, blasphemously calling itself "The Christian Club," and professing to share in common the profits of their venality.

states also that an artful attorney, an accomplice in the guilt of the transaction, drew the parties into the snare, and then left them.

The submission of the corporation, by means of which they obtained their discharge from Newgate does not appear to have been very sincere. Lord Mahon, in his History of England, observes, with reference to the occurrence, that "their punishment had little effect as an example, even upon themselves. During their very imprisonment, it is said, they completed another bargain for the borough with the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Abingdon." Certain it is that Sir T. Stapleton and Mr. Lee did not venture to contest the city against the opposed influence of the Corporation, at the ensuing election, when Mr. Sergeant Nares and the Honourable W. Harcourt were returned by a considerable majority, the defeated candidates being Mr. Craven and Sir James Cotter.*

The predominance of wealth and aristocratic position is more distinctly to be seen in the election of Lord Spencer, brother of the Duke of Marlborough, and Viscount Wenman, for the county, who met with no opposition whatever.

While the occurrences above related with reference to the city were going on, the university was occupied with a matter which produced no less sensation in its kind. On the 12th of March six members of St. Edmund Hall were expelled on the ground of deficiency of learning and entertaining views hostile to the doctrines and discipline of the church of England. The charges exhibited against them were, on the whole, of a very vague character, and mixed up with allegations of singular irrelevance to the proper questions to be determined, and which, we wonder, could form the elements of a serious accusation. It nevertheless appears by part of these charges that it was a grave offence for a pious-minded man, who had been formerly engaged in any trade or mechanical occupation, to intrude himself upon the university. Such, however, was the case; it being part of the indictment against these individuals, that one of them, Joseph Shipman, had been a linen draper; one, Thomas Jones, a baker; and that another, James Matthews, had been a weaver by trade. They had attended conventicles, which we know to be a clerical offence against the canons of the church, and suppose to be an infraction of the statutes of the University; and it was

further urged that they had consorted with a Mr. Fletcher and a Mr. Davies, reputed methodists; had preached in a barn to a mixed multitude, talked of "drawing nigh unto God," and had been heard to say "they must sit down and wait for the Spirit." Such were some of the allegations which formed matter for investigation as to the criminality of the parties, who had frequented the house of one Hewet, a stay-maker in the city, who was known to offer extempore prayer. The most tangible ground for accusation was the case of Erasmus Middleton, charged with having officiated in a chapel-of-ease, at Cheveley, in Berks. The two others, "deemed worthy to be expelled," and whom we have not already named, were Benjamin Kay and Thomas Grove. Their particular cases were of a similar character to the rest. A charge brought against Benjamin Blatch was dismissed.

Heresy was made out of the views they held on the doctrines of election, necessity of grace, and regeneration, no difficult matter to accomplish when we consider on what slight pretences the heaviest charges have been brought against persons who have dared to vary but ever so little from an established church; and, as they found a zealous patron in Mr. Whitfield in a formal defence he made for them, we may suppose their opinions were much the same as those of this celebrated preacher on these points. These opinions, however, whatever they may have been, were imputed to them as 'crimes,' and designated as such by Dr. Durell, the Vice-Chancellor and visitor of St. Edmund Hall, when he pronounced the sentence of expulsion upon the offenders. On the whole it would appear that these six men were pious enthusiasts, who, with honest convictions, endeavoured to draw others to their opinions, but who were verging to that form of dissent from the Established Church, which it could not be supposed the university ought to pass by disregarded, though there was a considerable degree of harshness in the tone and character of its proceedings in the matter. The Rev. W. Higson, tutor of St. Edmund Hall, exhibited the Articles, and those selected to conduct the inquiry were Dr. Durell, the Vice-Chancellor; Dr. Randolph, President of Corpus Christi College; Dr. Nowell, Principal of St. Mary Hall; and the Rev. T. Atterbury, of Ch. Ch., the Senior Proctor.

Upon the dissolution of Parliament, which took place March 11th, a contest took place for the representation of the university. Sir Roger Newdigate and Mr. Francis Page, of Aston, in this county, were the successful candidates, the latter gentleman supplying the place of Sir W. Dolben,—who had been

* FINAL STATE OF THE POLL.

Mr. Nares	...	...	592
Mr. Harcourt	...	...	562
Mr. Craven	...	...	332
Sir J. Cotter	...	...	80

the colleague of Sir R. Newdigate in the previous Parliament,—and defeating Mr. Jenkinson and Dr. Hay, his competitors for the distinction. As in the case of the city, we subjoin the number of votes * polled for each candidate, as a test of the strength of parties and the estimate formed of their respective pretensions by the members of convocation. These numbers also furnish means of judging, in some respect, what was the amount of the constituencies at the time. It is generally known that candidates for the representation of the university are not permitted to make a personal canvass of the electors. The exemption from this preliminary, deemed so necessary a part of the proceedings in elections among other constituencies of the country, arises in part from the inconvenience which would arise from it, if indeed it may not be considered as an impracticable affair, the great majority of the electors being scattered over every part of the united kingdom; and it is, besides, incidental to their established rule, that a candidate, for the dignity of the place, and perhaps for his independence, shall be put to no expense whatever on such occasions. We notice this feature in the practice of university elections, because allu-

sion was made to it by the Speaker of the House of Commons, when, in reprimanding the corporation of the city for their attempt to corrupt their members, he pointed out the advantage they enjoyed in the good example set them by the learned body so close at hand. The privilege of sending burgesses to Parliament was granted to the University by James the First.

Oxford was somewhat enlivened at the latter part of this year, 1768, by the visit of Christian VII., King of Denmark, brother-in-law of George III., by marriage with his sister, the Princess Caroline. He arrived here on the 17th of September, attended by several Danish nobles, and many officers of state, who formed part of his retinue. On all these distinguished personages various degrees were conferred in the Theatre, considerable ceremony having been got up for the occasion. His Majesty, after having been conducted to the different colleges and buildings of the university, left Oxford, expressing his great admiration of it, and proceeded to pay visits to Blenheim, and Ditchley, the seat of the Chancellor. On the 11th of October following, the Rev. Dr. Wetherell, Vice-Chancellor of the university, accompanied by Dr. Durell, the Principal of Hertford College, had the honour of being introduced to his Danish Majesty, at St. James's Palace, when they presented to him the diploma of his Degree of Doctor in Civil Law. The seal annexed to this instrument was inclosed in a gold box of curious workmanship.

* FINAL STATE OF THE POLL.

Sir R. Newdigate	...	...	352
Mr. Francis Page	...	...	296
Mr. Jenkinson	...	...	198
Dr. Hay	...	...	62

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VI.

It appears that the famous reprimand of the Speaker of the House of Commons to the members of the corporation of Oxford, for the attempt to corrupt their representatives, and which we gave at full length in our last number, created a very general sensation; and that part of it, in which he told them that the example of the University in every respect, but particularly in the choice of their burgesses, was well worthy of their imitation, gave rise to abundance of criticism. First and foremost appeared in the lists the celebrated Mr. Wilkes, whose remarks on the conduct of Sir T. Stapleton and Mr. Lee have already been noticed in our account of the transaction. His animadversions on the political antecedents of the university are bitterly severe. "I wish to know," he said, "if the overt acts of treason, daily committed in Oxford in 1715, did not force the government to send General Pepperel there in the same military disposition and with the same order he would have had in marching into Dunkirk. If the conduct of Oxford at that time was *worthy of imitation*, the conduct of George the First was cruel and oppressive. When the Chancellor, the Duke of Ormond, was attached of high treason, was it worthy of imitation to choose for his successor the Earl of Arran, his own brother? In the late reign, the conduct of the university, particularly of the Vice-Chancellor, in the affair of the students who had lately drunk the Pretender's health on their knees, was so infamous that the government could not wink at it; even so mild a prince as George the Second was at last forced to a severity, painful to his nature, but which the public good rendered necessary, against the most inveterate enemies of his person and family. Was the conduct of Oxford, then, *worthy of imitation*? Methinks I still hear the seditious shouts of applause given to the pestilent harangue of the late Dr. King, when he vilified our great deliverer, the Duke of Cumberland, and repeated with such energy the treasonable *redeat*. Was the conduct of the university at the opening of

the Radcliffe Library, by their behaviour to the known enemies of the Brunswick line, and their approbation of every thing hateful to liberty and her friends, *worthy of imitation*? When I was told of *all times* and of *every instance* in which Oxford had been exemplary in her conduct, I have been led to consider those two instruments of slavery—the Oxford decree in the reign of Charles the Second, and the recognition at the accession of James the Second, either of which is a repeal of Magna Charta."

There can be no question that the University had been, since the Revolution, tainted to the core with Jacobite principles. Dr. King,* to whom Mr. Wilkes referred in the above invective, had openly espoused the cause of the Pretender, and is known to have said, when time or circumstances had effaced his political prejudice, that there were some living who could remind him of his apostacy on the occasion of his appearing at Court upon the accession of George the Third. So great was the disaffection in the University towards the reigning family at one time, that, for the purpose of an efficient cure of it, a proposition—attributed to the Lord Chancellor Macclesfield—was made for taking the election of the Heads of Houses out of the hands of the Fellows of Colleges and vesting it in some high officers of State—a proposition, however, on which Mr. Hallam, the historian, has remarked, that it would probably have had only the effect of substituting a permanent for a temporary evil. This proposition may be read with a variety of other suggestions, by the same hand, for the improvement of the state of the university, in a paper entitled "*A MEMORIAL relating to the UNIVERSITIES*," the subject of which is introduced by way of preamble in the following words:—"As the disloyal behaviour of the universities, since his Majesty's happy accession to the crown, seems to have brought on a necessity of finding out some effectual method of amending and regulating them, I thought this a

* Principal of St. Mary Hall.

proper occasion to offer what, I think, would make those bodies more useful to the nation, by the increase of learning, and augmenting the number of those who might have the benefit of a learned education, as well as by bringing those seats of literature to a better sense of their duty to their king and country." The proposal itself is, "That the person to be chosen head of any college, have the qualifications required by the statutes of the several colleges; but that henceforward the election of a head be in the great officers of State, and such of the Archbishops and Bishops as shall be thought proper."*

The passage in the Speaker's reprimand, which drew from Mr. Wilkes the remarks we have quoted, brought forth in the pages of the *Political Register*, another critic, who, in commenting on the rejection of Sir James Cotter for the city, observed, that it was less a matter of surprise to find the *worthy* citizens of Oxford regardless of their liberties than any other constituency in the kingdom, since the University had always been an enemy to freedom; had always cherished the doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance, and the indefeasible hereditary right of kings; and, that among the famous propositions, which it *condemned* in the reign of Charles the Second, was the one following, namely, *that the people are the fountain of all legal power and government*, pronouncing it to be false, dangerous, and absurd, and thereby affirming that all legal government is derived from *heavenly-appointed kings*, who are obliged to allow the people no more liberty than they think proper. And the writer asks "if it can be thought strange, as these principles have always prevailed in the University, that they have at last reached the city, especially when recommended by so powerful an orator as Sir John Cust, who, in the reprimand he gave to the magistrates of Oxford, told them that the example of the university, in every respect, was well worthy of their imitation."

As the result of the contest for the city in 1768, so far as the defeat of Sir James Cotter was concerned, gave rise to the last-mentioned observations, it will be as well to state upon what principle that gentleman thought to recommend himself more powerfully to the freemen of Oxford, especially as it was one which, though it has found favour with some modern politicians, was then a novelty, if not, as we believe it to have been, the very first of its kind upon which a candidate for the representation of an English constituency has founded his claims to notice. This principle goes at once to the responsibility of a member of Parliament, involving,

as a condition of the choice made of him, that he shall unreservedly follow the instructions of those who have elected him. Nothing can be more explicit than the declaration of Sir James Cotter on this point; and we will quote from one of his addresses to the freemen, the language made use of by him in reference to it. "As, he says, he does not mean to purchase the electors or any part of their property, so will he then (namely, on the day of election) convince them of his having no intention to sell them, by his solemnly signing and swearing a declaration, that he will, without evasion, faithfully and disinterestedly receive and execute, to the utmost of his power and abilities, their instructions and commands, for the interest of their city in particular and of the constitution of this kingdom in general." Just eighty votes testify the degree of acceptance this offer found among the freemen. But those who gave Sir James Cotter this support did not probably much study the inconveniences which would flow from such a condition in the representation. The unmistakeable reference to the venality of the corporation in his address distinctly shows the class of men to whom he looked for support; and in them we discover the nucleus of an independent party, which eventually became too strong for any sinister influences whatsoever. An endeavour to maintain its spirit may be seen in the account of a meeting at the Mitre Inn on Monday, the 28th of October, in the year following, (1769), the object of which was to draw up a petition to the Mayor,* praying his worship to convene a common hall for the purpose of considering an address to the King on the critical posture of affairs. On this occasion Sir James Cotter presided, and a petition was drawn up and signed by ninety freemen. Their political opponents describe the affair as "a petitioning farce, the chairman being supported by two distinguished patriots of the junta—namely, on his left by Mr. Charles Soudamore, one of the scouts of Christ Church, and on his right by Mr. Underhill Breeze, who fills the important office of Master of Shoe Blacks at Trinity College."

For want of an authentic record of particulars we are unable to trace to any definite result the further steps taken in this matter. But petitions and remonstrances complaining of national grievances and the violation of the electoral rights,† and praying

* W. Wickham.

† The discontent grew out of the proceedings of Government in the case of Mr. Wilkes and on the taxation of our American colonies. The letters of Junius, which appeared at this time, doubtless contributed in a great degree to the manifestations of popular feeling.

* See Gutch's *Collectanea Curiosa*, No. ix., vol. 2, p. 53.

also for a dissolution of the Parliament, were prepared in all parts of the kingdom, and supported by a majority of the common people. On the other hand, the Ministry encouraged addresses to the Throne condemning the spirit of riot and disaffection; and one from the University, in reference to the general state of affairs in the country, forms an incident of the year 1769. In it they express "their grateful sense of the invaluable blessings derived by this nation from the propagation and enjoyment of those civil and religious rights which have been the great and constant objects of his Majesty's paternal care; but they could not without anxiety and concern behold the repeated attempts formed by men who clamour against imaginary abuses of their constitutional rights and privileges under pretence of preserving inviolate our civil and religious liberties, to raise and spread discord and turmoil amongst his Majesty's faithful subjects in open defiance of justice and legal authority, and in violation of the peace and good order of government so happily established under his Majesty's royal protection." They also assure his Majesty "that it has ever been and still is the constant object of their unwearied care to instil into the minds of the youth of this place the genuine principles of religion and liberty, the security of which (under God) essentially depended upon the dignity of the Crown and the authority of the laws, in the due and vigorous execution of which true constitutional liberty consists, and by which alone it can be supported."

Mr. Wilkes no doubt read with a complacent smile the suggestions in this address of the university for a vigorous execution of the laws on those who clamoured, as they expressed themselves, against imaginary abuses. It is plain, however, that they were smarting under the lash of his indignant satire, and took this opportunity of resenting it. But there is no reason to suppose that the expressions of their attachment to the constitution and the institutions of the country were not *then* sincere, or to question in any way the existence of an honourable fidelity to the house of Brunswick from that time to the present day.

Among the occurrences of this year which we are called upon to notice is a benefaction of the Duke of Marlborough to the city. The ostensible purpose of it was to enable the corporation to cancel a debt with which it had been burdened for more, it is said, than half a century; and the whole of this obligation, principal and interest, was paid off out of the purse of his Grace, amounting to no less a sum than £5,983 7s. 2d. The event was celebrated by the ringing of bells in

all the parish churches, and with other demonstrations of joy. The freemen were entertained at fifty public-houses, opened at the expense of his Grace, and a cold collation was served up in the Council Chamber for the members of the corporation on this "auspicious day!" We must be particular in marking this "auspicious day!"—it was August the 19th, 1769. Now, if it were possible to divest the mind of all political considerations connected with this circumstance, words would be wanting adequate to the proper acknowledgment of such princely munificence. But with the particulars so fresh in the memory as the attempt of the corporation to barter away the independence of the city, how can the event be looked upon in any other light than as the result of a more successful negotiation in the business. The eating and drinking at the fifty houses opened by the Duke on this auspicious day were the ratification of a compact for the surrender of the political independence of Oxford; and the consequences were felt for more than half a century afterwards, as a reference to every poll-book of the city elections from the time of this event to the rejection of General St. John, in 1820, will prove.

The inhabitants of Oxford were much more laudably engaged this year in the interest they took in the Shakspeare jubilee, which was celebrated at Stratford-on-Avon, September the 9th. Independently of that veneration for the poet which is felt by all Englishmen, some additional importance may have been attached to the event by the people of Oxford, from the well-known fact that Shakspeare, in his journeys between Warwickshire and London, was accustomed to frequent the Crown Inn, in the Cornmarket—not the house now known by that name—but one situated on the opposite side of the way, and near the Cross. It was, at the time Shakspeare used to visit it, kept by John Davenant, father of the poet, Sir William Davenant, who was born in the same house. John Davenant was a man of great respectability, and held the office of Mayor of the city in 1621. Antony Wood speaks of him as a great admirer of plays and Shakspeare, and says that his wife was a very beautiful woman. Scandal reports a too intimate relation between her and the great poet, as may be seen by the following anecdote:—When Sir W. Davenant, then a boy, was speaking to one of the Heads of Houses of his *god-father*, Shakspeare, the grave don is reported to have said to him, "Don't you know, boy, that you are taught not to take God's name in vain?" The name of John Davenant, the father, is preserved in a monument in the north aisle of St. Martin's church; and in the baptismal register of that parish is the

following entry respecting his son :—1605, W. Davenant, son of John Davenant, vintner, March 5.

The royal assent was given this year (April 20th) to a Bill for making a navigable canal from Oxford to Coventry, and the work for carrying its object into effect was at once begun. The canal was finished in 1790, and thus was completed the grand scheme of the Duke of Bridgewater and his celebrated engineer, the self-instructed Brindley. Of the great importance of this undertaking to the town and the great benefit it has been to the inhabitants, it is scarcely necessary to speak ; but it is equally well known, that, as a communication between Oxford and the colliery districts, its principal purposes have been to a great extent superseded by the introduction of the railroads. Canals, upon an average, and after an allowance for the length of time that must elapse before they can yield any return to their shareholders, are not usually to be considered as very productive enterprises, and are, generally speaking, more beneficial to the public than their projectors. This, however, was not the case with regard to the Oxford canal, which speedily turned out to be a source of very profitable investment. The following extract from the trade list for June, 1843, gives an account of the number of shares, the cost or sum actually expended upon each, the dividend payable upon it, with its selling price at the above-mentioned time, and the periods when the dividends are payable :—

Number of Shares.	Amount of Shares.	Dividend per Share per ann.	Price per Share.	Dividend payable.
1,786	£100	£30	£558	March. Sept.

We have not at hand the returns for the present time, but we fear they would exhibit a less favourable picture of the company's state of affairs. The four Carfax Lectureships consist of a donation of ten shares in the Oxford canal, given by Lord Lichfield, who was High Steward of the city, and of five more given by a Mr. Wycombe, a member of the corporation ; and they must have greatly fallen in value for the reason above mentioned. In 1835 they were computed to produce about £530 a-year.

We have to record an event of singular interest to scientific men, which happened on the 3rd of June in this year—the transit of the Planet Venus. The particulars respecting the places in which it was observed in Oxford are minutely recorded in a paper in the *Philosophical Transactions* [Vol. LIX, p. 192],

written by Dr. Hornsby, the Savilian Professor of Astronomy at the time, and subsequently Raddcliffe Observer. The phenomenon took place in the evening of the above-mentioned day ; and for the purpose of making the requisite observations Dr. Hornsby stationed himself in the upper room of the tower of the Schools ; while Mr. Lucas, fellow of New College, and Mr. Clare, fellow of St. John's, placed themselves in the tower of New College ; an unfurnished room in the Infirmary, commanding the north west, was assigned to Mr. Nitikin, a Russian gentleman, then of St. Mary Hall, and to Mr. Williamson, of St. Alban Hall, afterwards of Hertford College. Observations were also made in different places by Mr. Sykes, Brasenose College, Mr. Shuckburgh, Balliol College, “by the Rev. Mr. Horsley and Mr. Cyril Jackson, A.B., and Student of Christ Church.” Dr. Ingram, whose Memorials we have followed in this account, has remarked that the dispersion of the observers in different places, not one of which was properly suited to their object, was the consequence of no regular observatory having been yet established in Oxford, though steps had been taken to remove the serious evil.

Although it is but incidentally connected with Oxford, we introduce the following occurrence as an exhibition of the organised system of brigandage carried on in the times of which we write. Two gentlemen on their way to London from this city in a post chaise were robbed between Turnham Green and Brentford by a single highwayman, on horseback. After taking their money he told them that they might possibly meet with other “distressed gentlemen” before they reached Town, and if they should be stopped again the parole of the day was *Hamet* ; after which he politely took his leave of them and rode off towards Brentford.

The remaining events of the year 1769 are not accompanied, in the accounts we meet of them, with any circumstantial details, and are briefly told. The Commemoration, June 14, is described as passing off in the usual manner. In the evening the Masque of *Acis and Galatea* was performed in the presence of an “enormous brilliant audience ;” as was the oratorio of *Athalie* on the evening of the following day.—The races took place on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of July—the Duke of Marlborough adding to the attraction of the three days' sport by a gift of a fifty-pound plate.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VII.

IN 1770, the year following the events we last described, the city and university were busily occupied in the consideration of measures for carrying out a plan, which had been long agitated, for the general improvement of the town; and it was resolved at length to apply to Parliament in the ensuing session for an Act to bring this purpose to effect. The chief objects of public utility contemplated were the establishment of a Market Place for the common convenience of the inhabitants, the paving and lighting the streets, and the widening or rebuilding, as it might seem most desirable, of Magdalen Bridge. The scheme of construction was accompanied with one of demolition, and, as essential to the general design, it was further proposed to ask for power by the same Act to take down the remaining old gates of the city,—East Gate and North Gate, those venerable features of its antiquity. We shall hereafter speak more particularly of these undertakings in noticing the events of 1771, when the provisions of the Act, which met with no obstacle, came into operation.

In the meantime active arrangements were being made for giving effect to the purposes of that most excellent of the institutions of the city of Oxford—the Radcliffe Infirmary. The building had just been completed, and was now supplied with the requisites of wards and apartments, and all other conveniences suited to its benevolent ends. It remained to give laws for its good government and for the furtherance of the intentions in general of the various donors and trustees. A meeting accordingly took place on the 2nd of June, and as a preliminary course to the opening of the building for the reception of patients, the following resolution was adopted by those who were appointed to conduct the proceedings:—

“Whereas the trustees of the will of the late Dr. Radcliffe have, in pursuance of the said will, and at the sole charge of the trust, erected and furnished a spacious and commodious edifice near the University of Oxford, with

all conveniences and proper necessities for a general infirmary, which they have voluntarily offered for the general use of the University and City of Oxford, and of the several counties of Berks, Bucks, and Oxford, we, therefore, being desirous of promoting and carrying into execution the laudable design of the donors and trustees, have agreed to pay into the hands of the Right Honourable Lord Craven, the Rev. the Vice-Chancellor,* William Drake, Esq., of Amerham, Bucks, Robert Child, Esq., of Temple Bar, London, or one of them, the several and respective sums for carrying the intentions of the said Dr. Radcliffe and his trustees into execution.”

The few rules laid down and agreed to at this stage of the proceedings appear to have been no more than sufficient to give action to the institution, and set in motion some plan for its government. They were seven in number, and as follows:—

1. That each contributor deposit in advance the amount of one year's intended benefaction at the time of subscribing.
2. That no person subscribing under three guineas per annum, or thirty guineas once paid for life, shall be entitled to vote as a Governor in the choice of any officer, or in any matter whatever relative to the conduct of the charity.
3. Every person subscribing one guinea per annum may recommend one in-patient in one year.
4. All persons subscribing above one guinea and under five guineas may always have one in-patient.
5. All persons subscribing five guineas and upwards may have two in-patients.
6. Ladies subscribing as governors may vote upon all occasions by proxy, under their hand and seal.
7. A general meeting to be held on Saturday, July 21, for opening the said infirmary, and for nominating officers.

On the day fixed for the general meeting, in accordance with the last-mentioned rule, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Foulkes, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Smith and Dr. Vivian were elected physicians to the new infirmary; while Mr. Mose, Mr. Hacker, Mr. Towsey, and Mr. Grosvenor were elected surgeons; Mr. Cabell, house

* Dr. Nathan Wetherell, Master of University College.

apothecary; Mr. W. Taylor, secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Wheatley and Antony Collison were respectively elected to the several offices of matron and porter to the above institution.

It was not, however, till the 18th of October that the building was actually opened for the reception of patients; and on that day it was formally delivered up to the public by the Earl of Lichfield, who, for the great interest he had taken in promoting the objects of the institution, was elected its first president.

So extensive are the benefits diffused by the Radcliffe Infirmary—for the scheme of benevolence was not confined merely to the town and its immediate vicinity, as is the case with the generality of provincial institutions of the kind—that some further details relative to its projection and endowments cannot fail to be interesting, and may seem to be required. Although, then, as has been already stated, the edifice was not so far completed as to be in a condition for the admission of patients till the year 1770, the foundation of it was laid August 27, 1759.* The ground on which it is built, together with a garden of five acres in extent, was the gift of Mr. Rowney, that great benefactor to the city in so many other instances; and one of the wards of the infirmary is designated after his name, in honour of the circumstance. The Duke of Marlborough and his family greatly contributed by their patronage and donations to render the design available to the public. Very substantial aid was likewise afforded by Lords Lichfield, Abingdon, Craven, Barrington, and Wenman; by Sir James Dashwood and Sir Charles Cotterell Dormer. The Mayor of Oxford, also, Mr. Wickham, gave thirty-one pounds for the furtherance of the designs of the trustees. Nor should we omit to state here that the Earl of Lichfield, who died in 1772, devised the proceeds of a house in Hill-street, London, for the foundation of a Clinical professorship, under trust of the Chancellor of the University, the Bishop of Oxford, and the President of St. John's College. The professor under this foundation is elected by the members of Convocation, and a part of his duties consists in reading lectures in the Radcliffe Infirmary to students in medicine. Dr. William Lewis, M.D., of Oxford, and one of the first physicians appointed to the Infirmary, made a bequest of a hundred pounds in aid of the funds of the institution, and Mrs. Hay-

* The burying ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Oxford, Dr. Robert Lowth, Nov. 3, 1770; it was a very solemn ceremonial, accompanied with the prayers of the spectators that it might be the only useless part of the establishment.

ward gave an acre of land adjoining the premises already acquired. The present purpose of these details excludes the notice of its subsequent progress. It will be sufficient to say that there probably does not exist a better example of munificence in any endowment for charitable purposes in the country than in this infirmary. There is scarcely any description of suffering that does not here meet with relief; and it redounds to the imperishable honour of the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe that they should have given such a noble direction to the employment of the property left to their charge.

Some curious relics formerly found in St. Giles's parish have given rise to various conjectures on the part of antiquaries; and while the workmen were laying out the garden grounds of the Infirmary, they dug up at the distance of six or seven feet of each other two human skeletons. They lay about eighteen inches beneath the surface of the earth, in a bed of dry gravel, and appeared to have been buried there without coffins. Near the skull of one was found a circular plate, regularly pierced and of skilful workmanship, which had the appearance of having been once plated with silver, and to have been the ornament of some helmet.

Proceeding to the events of 1771 we have to notice the elevation of Mr. Sergeant Nares to the Bench. By this occurrence, a vacancy was created in the representation of the city; and, on the 25th of January, Lord Robert Spencer, brother to the Duke of Marlborough, became a candidate for the suffrages of the freemen. His claims were espoused by the corporation, who openly canvassed in his behalf. This step in their procedure was followed by an entertainment to the freemen on the evening of the same day. With the support thus given by the Chamber, and the prestige of the candidate's name, the issue could not remain doubtful; and his Lordship was consequently elected Member for Oxford on the following Thursday. Lord Robert Spencer was not present on the day of election, but his brother Lord Charles attended to return thanks for him, and in the evening, dined with the corporation in the Town Hall.

The distinction conferred on Mr. Sergeant Nares, by the appointment of him to be one of His Majesty's Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, brought his professional and political connexion with Oxford to an end; and it reflects great honour on the city, bearing testimony, as it does, to their judicious selection of so distinguished an individual to fill successively the various offices of Town Clerk, Recorder, and Member of Parliament. He was succeeded in the Recordership by the Hon. T. Francis Wenman,

though this did not take place till the ensuing year.

The Act of Parliament for which, at the commencement of this Paper we stated it to be the intention of the city to apply, to empower them to carry on their projected improvements, received the Royal assent in the month of March* this year; and the first meeting of the Commissioners appointed for putting it into execution took place the following April, Mr. James Morrell and John Walker officiating as clerks. The first most notable result of the Commissioners' deliberations was the demolition of the remaining city gates. So much interest does not attach to East Gate as the celebrated Bocardo, although Peshall speaks of it as "the prime or chief," adding, as a reason for this pre-eminence, that it was "always the way to the House of the Brethren of the Holy Trinity, St. John's Hospital, and East Bridge, and Petty Pont, which led to London." It had, according to the same authority, originally two round towers on each side to defend it, as also a pair of gates thwarted with a chain, with the others kept shut and locked in the night season, and another chain crossing the way from the gate leading to Holywell, to secure the suburbs in the tumultuous times of the Barons' wars. Long, however, before its removal it had lost much of its ancient character, and its importance even as a relic of antiquity had ceased to be regarded. It extended across the High Street between the houses now occupied by the Rev. Mr. Millard, the Head Master of Magdalen College School, and that of Mr. Jones, the chemist. North Gate, or Bocardo, as it was more usually called, was looked upon with a different feeling, historical associations vesting it with an extreme degree of interest. It was anciently the most strongly fortified point of the city walls, no river running before it to assist in their defence, as was the case with respect to the other gates. When more peaceful times rendered the fortifications of the town in general unnecessary, the room over the gate was converted into a prison for malefactors and debtors within the jurisdiction of the city magistrates; and Dr. Ingram, in his Memorials, which were published in 1837, states that there were persons then living who could remember it as such, as well as an ancient custom of the debtors in letting down a hat or purse by a cord from the window to receive the charity of the passers by. "It has also," says Peshall, "been a prison for the scholars for little faults."* In still earlier times this room, together with the house

adjoining it on the south, is said to have been used as a library for the University when it was in Bellositum or Beaumont. Yet, that which has rendered it most memorable is the circumstance of its having been the place of imprisonment of the martyrs Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, previous to their execution.

However, these venerable remains appear to have been comprehended under the meaning of the words "nuisances and annoyances," mentioned in the preamble of the act; and, having been sold to the Commissioners for £306, their fiat went forth, and on Wednesday, August 14th, the workmen began pulling them down. In a recess of an upper room a silver Grecian coin was found, having on the obverse the figure of an owl, and on the other side the initials of *Athenæ* in Greek characters. This interesting relic, which is thought to bear testimony to the tradition of the room having once been used as the muniment room of the old university, went into the possession of the Rev. Mr. Horn, of Wansted, in Essex; the foundation stone is preserved in St. Michael's church. There are various speculations as to the meaning of the name which was given to this gate. A. Wood inclines to the opinion that it is derived with but slight alteration from a Saxon word signifying a library; others assign to it a Celtic or British etymology denoting both its use and position. It stood in the Cornmarket—then called from it Northgate-street—close to the tower of St. Michael's church, which the views taken in 1770 place outside the gate on the north, though the church was, without question, formerly inclosed within the walls.

Another vestige of the old fortifications—more properly a postern, but called Smith Gate—was also considered an obstruction and removed to make way for the improvements of the city. It formed an outlet from Cat Street towards the Parks, and was contiguous to "our Lady's chapel," of which a part still remains at the entrance of New College Lane. A mutilated piece of sculpture over its old doorway representing the marriage of St. Catherine, is easy to be seen, and must often attract the attention of passers by. This gate, originally but a footway, was made passable for carts and coaches in 1643, "for the pleasure of King James to see the schools erected." It is memorable for the scene of a great conflict in Henry III.'s time between the townsmen and the scholars on the refusal of the former to allow Prince Edward an entrance on his march to Wales, as well as for a spirited defence of it by the members of the University on the attempt of Roger Mortimer to surprise Oxford in the time of Edward

* On the 28th.

* Probably quoting A. Wood: vid. Hist. of Oxford.

II. Some very interesting particulars relative to these occurrences are narrated in Sir J. Peshall's History of Oxford.

As incidental to the above descriptions, a brief account of the two other great gates of the city will not, perhaps, be deemed unacceptable. They had long been taken down. Of Westgate we meet with very few particulars; it was [situate at the point where the two streets running westward from the churches of St. Ebbe and St. Peter-le-Bailey meet, and over it was engraved on stone the Arms of England. This position indicates the course of the old city wall, which ran over the site of the present County Gaol in the direction of Broken Hayes. Southgate stood between the south-west angle of Christ Church and the end of the Almshouses, opposite to the entrance into Brewer's Lane. Similarly to the other gates it was strongly defended by towers on each side, and is described as having been, from its architectural embellishments, an ornament to the place. The declivity of the ground here was in rela-

tion to the fortifications of the gate, formerly called Tower Hill.

The proximity of four churches in Oxford to the four principal gates, two dedicated to St. Michael and two to St. Peter, gave rise to the following Latin distich—

*Invigilat portas australi, boreasque Michael,
Exortum Solem Petrus regit atque cadentem.*

These lines have been rendered, though not very elegantly, in the following English—

*The North and South Gates St. Michael doth guard,
The East and the West St. Peter's care doth ward.*

St. Peter-le-Bailey was also called St. Peter-in-the-East, and to understand the connexion of St. Michael with South Gate, it is necessary to keep in mind that anciently there was a church dedicated to the Archangel near this spot. It indeed stood exactly where the Hebrew Professor's Lodgings are now built, but was pulled down in order to carry out Cardinal Wolsey's design in the erection of Christ Church.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VIII.

No circumstance falling within the compass of these details served to produce a greater sensation in Oxford than one belonging to the period at which we have now arrived, and the particulars of which we are about to relate. Dr. Nowell, well recollected by some living at this present time, the Principal of St. Mary Hall, and in other respects a personage of some distinction in the university, preached a sermon before the House of Commons, at St. Margaret's church, on the 30th of January, 1772, the day appointed for the service in memory of the martyrdom of King Charles the First. As was usually the case, but very few attended on this occasion, the Speaker of the House and about three or four other members only being present. On the following day Sir William Dolben, seconded by Mr. Alexander Popham, made a motion for a vote of thanks to the preacher for his excellent discourse, to be accompanied with the request of the House that he would print it. This motion was carried as a matter of course, and the mover and seconder were desired to acquaint Dr. Nowell of the resolution come to. After the sermon had been printed and transmitted, according to custom, to the members generally, it was found to contain the most high-flown doctrines derived from the school of Filmer and Dr. Sacheverell, inculcating the duty of passive obedience, the indefeasible right of kings, and to be at variance with the principles which were established by the Revolution of 1688. Great excitement prevailed in consequence of the discovery thus made. Mr. Boyle Walsingham took an opportunity of sounding the alarm; and on February 25th moved that the vote of thanks be expunged from the journals of the House of Commons. Several circumstances con-

spired to place the House and some of its members in a very embarrassing and ludicrous position. A vote had been carried, expressive of the thanks of the House for a sermon, which, after reading it, they asserted to be a libel on the king and the people. The Speaker, who had heard the sermon delivered, to shew how attentive he had been at the time, now asserted his strong disapprobation of its matter; and the seconder of the motion for a vote of thanks for its great merit, maintained it to be the most exceptionable he had ever read. It appears that the latter had upon leaving the church, expressed his objection to the tendency of Dr. Nowell's discourse, but was induced by Sir W. Dolben, who insisted upon his mistake, to become of a different opinion. During a very acrimonious debate which took place, Mr. Thomas Townshend proposed that the sermon should be burnt by the hands of the common hangman. Mr. Sawbridge, one of the members of the city of London, sarcastically remarked that the only inducement Dr. Nowell could have for holding forth such doctrines was that his predecessor, Mainwaring, had done the same, and got a bishopric. Sir Roger Newdigate and Sir W. Dolben, especially the former, warmly espoused Dr. Nowell, and with great zeal and ability defended the university, of which they were the representatives, and which had been mixed up in the charge of Jacobinical principles made against him. The prime minister, Lord North—who was to become this year the Chancellor of the university—while confessing his inability to approve or defend the objectionable matter of the sermon endeavoured to rescue the House from its anomalous position by moving the order of the day; but his motion was rejected by a majority of 152 to 41,

and the main question was carried for expunging the vote of thanks, while it was further resolved that on all future occasions a sermon should be printed before it received the approbation of the House. Inasmuch as during this debate on Dr. Nowell's doctrines many severe references were made to the church service, ordered for the 30th of January, it was instantly followed up by a motion for repealing the Act for its observance, on the ground that it was blasphemous, as instituting a parallel between our Saviour and King Charles. Some edge may possibly have been given to the feeling on the subject by a remark, which had been made by Lord Folkestone, that the service was composed by Father Peter, confessor to James the Second. Sir Roger Newdigate, with his wonted zeal in every matter where he felt the interests of the university and the Establishment to be concerned, most ably defended the Liturgy against the aspersions cast upon it, repudiating the necessity or justice of any interference with it; and he succeeded in defeating the measure by a majority of 125 votes over 97.* Gibbon, the historian, with reference to this debate, says, in a letter written to his friend, Holroyd—"To-day the House was employed in a very odd way. Tommy Townshend moved that the sermon preached before the House i. e., three or four members, should be burnt by the common hangman, as containing arbitrary, tory and high-flown doctrines. The House nearly agreed, till they recollected that they had already thanked the preacher for his excellent discourse. Nowell's bookseller is much obliged to the Right Honourable Tommy Townshend. Feb. 25, 1772."†

The part taken by the members for the university in these discussions may be considered to indicate very clearly the political feelings in general at that time of the body which they represented; and on that account it has been thought desirable to enter more circumstantially into these details, independently of the interest otherwise attaching to them. But these were not the only questions respecting religious policy which in 1772 occupied the public mind, and in which the university was

interested. In the early part of the year a petition, signed by two hundred and fifty clergymen, and praying for relief from subscription to the Thirty-Nine Articles, was presented to Parliament; and although an astimulus was given to this proceeding by a work of Archdeacon Blackburne, called 'The Confessional,' it seems to have struck the House, from the course the debate took on the subject of giving the petition consideration, that the most forcible reason for attention to it was the requirement of subscription to these Articles on the part of members of the university at the time of their matriculation. Lord North wished to give the petition a civil treatment, and endeavoured thereby to get it quietly laid on the table; but the pacific policy of the minister was defeated by Sir Roger Newdigate, who, though naturally a man of the mildest and most amiable disposition, rose up and with great vehemence declared that it aimed at the destruction of the Church, whose existence depended on the Thirty-Nine Articles. He thus gave rise to a very memorable debate, "sustaining, as it was said, in the part which he took in it, the character of member for Oxford, with great fortitude." The supporters of the petition urged the often repeated arguments that the Thirty-Nine Articles were framed when the spirit of inquiry and liberal notions were in their infancy; that they were absurd, unintelligible, and contradictory to each other, and that the Scriptures were the proper test, and a belief in them ought to be sufficient. Lord North eventually refused to encourage the petition, observing the tendency of some of the arguments, urged in its favour to affect the Union, which he thought to be too fundamental an affair to be wantonly or lightly treated; and it was consequently rejected.*

We again quote from Gibbon, who, in another letter to Mr. Holroyd, with characteristic levity thus treats this rather important question:—"Boodles, Saturday night, Feb. 8, 1772. Though it is very late, and the bell tells me that I have not above ten minutes left, I employ them with pleasure in congratulating you on the late victory of our dear mamma, the Church of England. She had last Thursday 71 rebellious sons, who pretended to set aside her will on the account of insanity; but 217 worthy champions, headed by Lord North, Hans Stanley, Charles Fox, &c., although they allowed the Thirty-nine Articles of her Testament were absurd and unreasonable, supported the validity of it with infinite humour."†

* Dr. Johnson gives a qualified approbation to the Act of Parliament, which ratified the insertion for the service for King Charles the Martyr into the Liturgy. "I could have wished it," he said, "to be a temporary Act, to have expired with the century; but to abolish it would be to declare it was wrong. I should have no objection for another Act to continue for another century, and then let it expire." The reason he gives for objecting to abolish it is not very philosophical.—[See *Life by Boswell*.

† See *Miscellaneous Works*, vol. I., p. 450.

* *Noes*, 217; *Yea*s, 71.

† *Miscellaneous Works*.

Turning to the occurrences of the city belonging to this year we find that, irrespective of the great changes and improvements set afoot by the operation of the Commissioners' Act, as it is usual to call it, attention became directed—partly, it may be supposed, from considerations of self interest, partly by benevolent sympathies, and on the whole by the necessity of the case—to the condition of the poor and a more satisfactory mode of administering to their relief. It had been necessary, for the means of carrying this important object into execution, to apply to Parliament, and in the previous year an Act was obtained "for the better regulating the poor within the city of Oxford." In accordance with the powers thus conferred by the Legislature, the eleven united parishes were placed under the management of the body known by the name of the Guardians, and the House of Industry was erected. The foundation stone of this structure, which was built after a design by Mr. Gwynne,—the architect of the new market and Magdalen Bridge—was laid May the 1st, 1772, by the Rev. Sir J. Peshall, accompanied on the occasion by the Mayor of Oxford, the Governor, and the Guardians of the several parishes. A brass plate was affixed to the foundation stone, with the following inscription engraved on it:—*Maii Primo, MDCCLXXII, Joh. Peshall, Bartus, Gubtor et Guardiani, P.* By the terms of the contract it was specified that this building should not exceed £4,030, and that it should be completed by Michaelmas Day, 1773. It is not possible to regard the spot of ground on which the House of Industry stands otherwise than with mixed feelings of a very opposite character, when recollecting that history records it as a part of the site and environs of the palace which was built by King Henry the Second, and where his son Richard Cœur de Lion was born.

Another new feature in the aspect of the town—though belonging to the University and entirely connected with its purposes—had its commencement this year, namely, the Radcliffe Observatory. The history of this monument of the munificence of the individual after whom it is named, shewing as it also does the increasing importance that began to be attached by the University of Oxford to the study of Astronomy, dates in its origin with the year 1768; when, owing to the great inconvenience felt through want of some better arrangements for observations than those which had previously existed,—the observers being obliged to betake themselves to different towers, and other elevated buildings of the place as might seem best suited for their present purposes,—Dr. Hornsby, the Savilian Professor, represented the evil to the Chancellor, Lord Lich-

field, who was also one of Dr. Radcliffe's trustees. It is needless to state that the application was favourably received. A sum of seven thousand pounds was granted by the trustees in the Act term of 1771, and in the year following the Duke of Marlborough added to this donation a lease of eight acres and a half of ground which he held under St. John's College. This brief sketch brings us to the time of which we are writing, when the foundation of the Observatory was laid. The ceremony was performed on the 27th of June, by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Wetherell, the Savilian Professor, Dr. Hornsby, and the Architect of the building, Mr. Keene. A copper plate, laid on the first stone, bears the name of the trustees, with the expression of their regard for the interests of the University in thus promoting the objects of astronomical science:—

*Pro singulari sua erga Academiam voluntate
Georgius Henricus Comes de Lichfield,
Carolus Mordaunt, Baronettus,
Gulielmus Bagot, Baronettus,
Gulielmus Drake, Armiger,
Radcliviani Testamenti Curatores.*

P. C.

*Astronomiæ Sacrum,
Anno M.D.CC.LXXII.*

To this account of the inauguration of the Observatory it is necessary to add that the society of St. John's College, in order to promote the ends of the institution, was subsequently induced to sell the fee simple of the land on which the building is erected; and they obtained the sanction of an Act of Parliament for this purpose (1820).

On the 19th of September in this year the Chancellor of the University, Lord Lichfield, died; and on the 3rd of the following month Lord North was elected by the members of Convocation to supply his place, without any opposition. On the 6th of October the new Chancellor was formally installed at his residence in Downing Street, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Wetherell, the Public Orator, Dr. Nowell, and the two Proctors, waiting upon him to invest him in his office. This was about the last public act of Dr. Wetherell, the term of his Vice-Chancellorship drawing to a close, and Dr. Fothergill, the Provost of Queen's College, being chosen as his successor.

By the decease of Lord Lichfield, the Presidentship of the Radcliffe Infirmary also became vacant. Public opinion must approve the choice which the Governors made of the individual to succeed him. They elected the Duke of Marlborough, and it was a becoming tribute to his generous liberality, and the active interest he had taken in furtherance of the useful purposes of the Infirmary.

Among the most conspicuous alterations in the appearance of the town in 1772 was the removal of a terrace which stood in the front of Balliol College towards Broad-street. It extended from the south-eastern angle of the college in an oblique line to the door of the Master's lodgings, and was shaded by lofty elms, much in the same way as the present front of St. John's College, and separated like that by a low wall from the public road. The enclosed ground was surrendered to the Commissioners of the Paving Act to enable them to widen the street. Their general plans for the improvement of the town were further accelerated by an accident which happened this year to Magdalen Bridge, when part of a great arch next to the lodgings of the Physic Garden fell in. The avenue to the bridge was consequently shut up, and it became necessary for the convenience of travellers to open a temporary road

and bridges at Milham until the new bridge was completed. This new bridge, as well as the market—results of the Commissioners' plans of improvement—will shortly demand our notice. The latter had already been advertised, and attention called to the Act against forestallers; but combinations to enhance the price of commodities were nevertheless carried on; and to such an extent did they affect the circumstances of the poor, that towards the end of the year a collection was instituted for their relief, when the inhabitants in general contributed for this purpose £246, the colleges above £200, the Duke of Marlborough £50, and the Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Lowth), £10 10s. "By this means," says Sir J. Peashall, to whom we are indebted for this particular, "a sixpenny loaf will be sold for three months or more to each one of a family at three pence."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. IX.

WE have seen the part taken by the representatives for the university in the measures brought before Parliament in the year 1772, for procuring relief from subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles, and for extending the benefits of toleration to non-conformists generally. The favourable disposition which in the course of the debates on these questions had been shown by members of high authority for granting the exemption required, suggested a renewal of petitions of the same tendency, though under a different shape, before even the session was concluded; and they were supported by a considerable part of the ministers, and almost the whole of the opposition. Such was the unanimity in a rather full house on one of the discussions which took place on the subject, as to leave only the names of Sir Roger Newdigate and his colleague, Sir William Dolben, to constitute the minority. But Sir R. Newdigate was not of a temper at any time or under any circumstance of repulse to yield to an alteration in the established state of things. To arguments urged from the Letters of Locke on Toleration, he answered that it was the work of a speculative philosopher, and that his reasoning was too pure for the depravity of the times;—that the religion of a country must take the complexion of its government—monarchical in a monarchy, republican in a republic;—that churchmen had tender consciences as well as dissenters, who had moreover, in many respects, advantages superior to the church, especially in the power they possessed of choosing their own ministers.

The success of these steps in the Commons encouraged the Protestant dissenters in an attempt to obtain a repeal of the Test Act, and a measure to

that effect was carried in the Lower House, having the support of ministers and their friends, who were supposed to be desirous of engaging in a Protestant league against the Roman Catholics. But it experienced a different fate in the House of Lords, notwithstanding the countenance it received from such names as Lords Camden, Shelbourne, Chatham, and even Mansfield, being opposed by the prelates and rejected by a preponderance in numbers, if not in arguments. It was during the debates on these matters that Lord Chatham is reported to have described the Church of England as Popish in her liturgy, Calvinistic in her articles, and Arminian in her clergy:—"A shallow witticism," says Mr. Gladstone, in his work on Church Principles, "unworthy so illustrious a man."

It will not be considered altogether irrelevant to the scope of these details to state here,—what is not generally known,—that two members for the city of Oxford have been thought to be the authors of the celebrated Test Act. The merit of participation in the Act, whatever it may be held to be, was assigned to them by Bishop Parker; but the following extract from a curious paper of the Earl of Clarendon in answer to the time-serving prelate, distinctly shows that there was no ground whatever for his assertion:—"Who were the two fathers, or rather midwives (as he calls them) of the first test in 1673 doth not appear by the journals of the House of Commons; so that his lordship can only have been told that they were the '*two famous burgesses of Oxford*.' And in that he may have been misinformed in the whole, as I am sure he is in part. For the Alderman he mentions was not then member of Parliament; and it can be made appear that the Recorder

of Oxford, who was one of their burgesses, never opened his lips in that matter."* The burgesses referred to in this controversy must have been W. Wright and Sir Richard Croke. The former was Alderman, but not elected to represent the city till 1678; both served the office of Recorder.

It is not surprising that the sanction thus given to the principles of toleration by statesmen of such weight and eminence, as well as the expressed opinion of the generality of all parties, that unfeigned assent to theological doctrines at an age too immature for the comprehension of them was prejudicial in its tendency, should dictate some step on the part of the more liberal members of the university. Taking advantage, therefore, of the conjuncture, which appeared favourable for an endeavour to obtain some concession on the point, they made a proposition, recommended by the Chancellor himself, for substituting a declaration of conformity to the worship and Liturgy of the Church of England instead of subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles at the time of matriculation. Accordingly, on February the 4th, 1773, a convocation was held for considering the merits of the question, when it is said some excellent speeches were delivered both by its advocates and opponents. The House, however, was not inclined to give its assent to the new formulary proposed, or to make any alteration in the statute upon the subject; and so the proposition was rejected, by one hundred and eleven votes to sixty-four. This defeat could not have been felt to be very ignominious or decisive, as in the following month two further efforts were made to obtain the same object, in the one instance by means of a proposal to subjoin some qualifying explanation to the objectionable statute, and in another by a new form of subscription, but in both cases with less success than that with which the endeavour in the first place to get rid of it altogether was attended.

The event which chiefly engrossed attention this year, was the installation of Lord North; and the description given of the proceedings at Oxford in honour of the Chancellor on this occasion, fully justifies the common belief that it surpassed all others of the kind which had previously taken place. Various circumstances occurred to give *éclat* to the occurrence. Lord North was then Prime Minister, and had taken part in the conduct of some of the most momentous concerns in which the country had ever been engaged, first as a Commissioner of the Treasury in the outset of his political career, then as Paymaster of Forces, and afterwards in the management of the national resources as Chancellor of

the Exchequer. His high political position may have partly recommended him to the university; but it is impossible to suppose that an amiable disposition, a reputation for classical scholarship, and other great qualities did not greatly influence them in the choice they made of their Chancellor. "He was," says his great political opponent, Burke, "a man of admirable parts; of general knowledge; of a versatile understanding, fitted for every sort of business; of infinite wit and pleasantry; of a delightful temper, with a mind most disinterested."

To this eulogium of Burke, on one whom he does not hesitate to call "a great man," it has not been thought necessary to append what he added in respect of Lord North's deficiencies for political command during the stormy events of the period, nothing more being here requisite than to shew the qualities which pointed him out to the university for the functions and dignity of the office to which they had unanimously elected him. And in this point of view no one will lightly question the ample fitness of the new Chancellor. He, indeed, fully justified the choice made of him by an invariable regard for the interests of the university, and a constant desire to promote the advancement of academical studies. One of the first steps taken by him in this direction after his appointment was the continuation of the prizes for Latin verse and English prose which had just been given by his predecessor, the Earl of Lichfield. His family connexion with the county, and some other particulars of a local character, created additional interest in his appearance at Oxford; for he was member for Banbury, and had represented that borough ever since 1759.

Lord North arrived in Oxford to receive the honours that awaited him on the 6th of July, and on the following morning held his first levee at Queen's College, the Provost of that society, Dr. Fothergill, being Vice-Chancellor. On the same day he accompanied the anniversary procession of the President and Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary to St. Mary's Church, when the Bishop of Chester preached a sermon, and £305 10s. 6d. were collected at the doors in aid of the funds of the Institution. On the 7th the more regular business of the *Encenia* commenced in the Theatre, and nothing, it is said, could exceed the splendour of the appearance which the company made. After the usual opening of the proceedings, the Archbishop of Canterbury was admitted (*ad eundem*) to the degree of Doctor of Divinity in the university. The other presentations on this day consisted of ten Peers, two Baronets, four sons of the nobility, and many other distinguished personages; among

* *Collectanea Curiosa.*

whom were the Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Charles Spencer, and Viscount Wenman, the members for the county, and Lord Robert Spencer, the representative for the city. The honorary degree of Doctor in Civil Law was also conferred on Sir George Nares, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, formerly Town Clerk and Recorder of the City of Oxford.

Among those on whom, during the two following days of the Installation similar honours were conferred, were Sir Joshua Reynolds, the eminent painter; Pye, poet laureat; Glover, the author of "Leonidas;" Beattie, Professor of Moral Philosophy and author of "The Minstrel;" and Sir Elijah Impey, who figured so conspicuously as the coadjutor of Warren Hastings in his government of India. From a long catalogue of other distinguished names we also select Sir Henry Dashwood, Mr. Drake and Mr. Oldfield Bowles, owing to their connection, with this county. Independently of the usual prize compositions, Latin and English Poems were recited by different noblemen and other members of the university. The ode was written by Dr. Wheeler, the Professor of Poetry, and set to music by Dr. Hayes, the Professor of Music. Lord North held daily levees—one at Trinity College, of which he was a member. An assembly in the Town Hall, balls and concerts in the evening, for which the most eminent vocalists of the day—Mrs. Sheridan, Miss Linley, and Signora Galli—were engaged, formed part of the arrangements for giving importance to this great event. In the Evening of Thursday Arnold's Opera of the "Prodigal Son" was performed in the Theatre.

It was during this *Enocenia* that the eminent linguist, jurist, and profound scholar, Sir William Jones, Fellow of University College, took his degree of Master of Arts. He had prepared an oration, with the intention, which for some reason was not executed, of delivering it in the Theatre. This speech, the object of which was to show the transcendent advantages of Oxford, and to rescue learning from the aspersions cast on it of being destructive of all manly spirit, was published about ten years afterwards, and shows, in the instance of the

writer at least, how compatible the pursuits of literature are with liberal opinions and an ardent love of liberty. It is somewhat remarkable that during this year two other Fellows of the same society as that to which Sir William Jones belonged should have earned for themselves marks of honourable distinction in the university. These distinguished individuals were Mr. (afterwards Sir Robert) Chambers and Mr. William Scott, eventually Lord Stowell. By Lord North's measure for regulating the affairs of the East India Company, a supreme court of judicature was established in Bengal, and Mr. Chambers was appointed one of the puisne judges of the court at Calcutta. The acceptance of this office pointed to the necessity of resigning the professorship; but the university, reluctant to be deprived of the benefits of his legal knowledge, passed a vote, in full Convocation, on the 9th of July, to allow him the option of returning within three years and to appoint a substitute to discharge the duties of the Professorship in the meanwhile. The other instance to which reference was made is the election of Mr. Scott to the Camden Professorship of Ancient History. This affair, however, did not take place till the end of the year, when there was a spirited contest for the vacant office, Mr. Scott having for his competitors Mr. Bandinel and Mr. Napleton; but the result of the scrutiny presented a considerable majority in his favour.*

Some time during the year 1773 the old buildings, which stood on the present site of Canterbury Quadrangle, were taken down, and the square reconstructed after a new design, principally through the munificence of Dr. Richard Robinson (Lord Rokeby), the Archbishop of Armagh. On this memorable spot of ground formerly stood Canterbury College or Hall, of which Wicliffe is said to have been Warden and Sir Thomas More a member, who studied there under Linacre and Grocyn,—the first famous for his skill in grammar, and who likewise wrote upon the art; the latter the first that professed or publicly taught the Greek tongue in the University of Oxford.

Dec. 2.—Scott, 140; Bandinel, 115; Napleton, 99.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. X.

It would seem that the people of Oxford were indifferent observers of the portentous occurrences in North America and the proceedings in the British Parliament with relation to them during the year 1774. They do not at least appear to have made their feelings and sentiments on these subjects known through their representatives in any of the discussions which took place upon them in the House of Commons. The same remark applies to the other constituencies of the county. Not a voice was raised by one of them in any of the debates on the remonstrances, and more than a hundred petitions which were presented against taxing the colonies. These and other facts conduce to give support to the opinion that they generally acquiesced in the measures of the Government for subjecting the colonies to an unqualified dependence on the mother country. Although, moreover, it was obvious that the Parliament had nearly lived out its constitutional period of existence, and that a dissolution was not far distant, still no steps were taken for exacting from the representatives any such declaration of opinion as would entitle them to future confidence, or to seek for others whose views were more in accordance with their own. And yet, in expectation of this event constituencies in other places were demanding of announced candidates for their suffrages assurances of endeavours to get the late American Acts repealed, as well as to obtain a parliamentary reform by measures for excluding placemen and pensioners from the House of Commons, for shortening the duration of parliaments, and for effecting a more fair and equal representation of the people. No such spirit of activity was displayed in any of the constituencies of Oxfordshire. The

aristocratical influence in the county, together with its government connexion will greatly account for this state of things. The Duke of Marlborough had resisted by his votes in the House of Lords every attempt to acknowledge the independence of America. By his interest one of his brothers represented the county and another was member for the city. His Grace's political bias could not of course be without its effect upon the representation of the borough of Woodstock. The Earl of Harcourt at the time was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and his son was the other member for Oxford. With regard to Banbury, Lord North may be said to have represented himself or his family interests in the neighbourhood, and that without much discontent on the part of the burgesses there.

It is needless to pursue this line of illustration as to the political character of Oxford and Oxfordshire at this momentous period. Enough has been stated to account for the apathy and supineness among the electors on the approach of the dissolution of Parliament. It is due, however, to a just representation of their position to state, that this affair came with some degree of surprise upon the people, and did not give much time to some, who possessed a spirit of independence as to their electoral rights, to exercise them as they could wish; for by means of a rather unusual exertion of the prerogative the Parliament was dissolved suddenly by royal proclamation. No similar instance of its exercise had happened for above thirty years, and it gave the ministry great advantages in the election of members.

The dissolution took place on the 30th of September, and the writs were made returnable on the

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XI.

WHILE the events of the last two or three years which we have described were taking place, a most astonishing progress was being made in giving effect to the Act passed in 1771 for the general improvement of the town. No adequate conception can be formed of the magnitude of the undertaking, or of the capacity for business displayed by the Commissioners in all their operations. Some notice has been already taken of the preliminary business of demolition, resolved upon and promptly executed for the more immediate object of widening, paving, and repairing all the principal streets. The more difficult work of construction remained, and the plan to be carried out in furtherance of other important alterations was on a scale so extensive as to involve in many respects an entire transformation, not only in the appearance but in the character of the place. For the general purpose temporary roads and avenues had to be opened, ground treated for and purchased, houses to be pulled down and rebuilt, localities to be metamorphosed in all that had respect to their previous use and adaptation, with many necessary arrangements for public convenience during the progress of the great work. The powers conferred by an act of parliament do not remove every difficulty in the way of rightly comprehending the nature of the task which devolves on those who have to carry it into execution. It is in this spirit we should approach the labours of the Commissioners in order to estimate justly the value to be put upon them. Those who at this time are deriving the full benefit of their labours are not very familiar with all that was required to be done in order to give them any participation in it what-

ever. Their work comprehended compacts and contracts, purchases of corporate and private property, outlay of money—first to be borrowed to effect the purchases,—provision for repayment of the money borrowed, a nice regard for the interests of owners and occupiers of property, with many other details incidental to measures of a comprehensive and complicated character. All these things considered, it is impossible to suppose, that without admirable qualifications for business, great judgment, and harmonious co-operation, the design of improving the city to the extent contemplated, could have been effected—certainly not with the promptitude and dispatch we find to have taken place. The completion of the New Market is in this respect a more striking object than any other accomplished with the purpose of conferring permanent benefit upon the inhabitants of Oxford. Here there would appear to present themselves innumerable and insurmountable obstacles to the most active spirit of enterprise, if the nature of the locality set apart for the establishment of a market be duly considered. A slight description of its character will fully justify this opinion. The whole area between Jesus College Lane and the High Street was covered with dwelling-houses and their ordinary appurtenances, stables, stable-yards, and gardens. The interior of this portion of the town was approached by various passages on the north and south sides, and by two openings in the Turl, one of which was called Maiden Head Lane. The houses, alternating with the present avenues from the High-street into the Market, and all together constituting its front, replaced others, precisely the same in number and

occupied by the most respectable citizens, of whom Mr. Tonge, the goldsmith, was one. The residence of this eminent tradesman, who became Chief Magistrate of the city in 1781, was on the extreme left of this range of buildings, somewhere about the spot where the present Mayor's house stands, and adjoined an extensive yard belonging to the King's Head. No trace is left by the alterations made of three houses* which fronted Jesus College Lane, or, as it is now named, Market-street. The exact situation of all the buildings taken down, with the names of the owners and occupiers, is preserved in a ground plan of the premises, sketched by Mr. Gwynn, the architect, and now in the possession of Mr. Dayman, to whom we are indebted for all the above particulars relating to the Market.†

Enough can scarcely be said in commendation of that skilful management by which, in so short a time, the face of this locality was so completely and beneficially altered.

We would willingly, for the interest of various old-established families in Oxford, and particularly as the period marks the limit of all living recollection, give the names and occupations of all the individuals, between twenty and thirty in number, as noted in Mr. Gwynn's plan; but the nature of this work does not admit of more than a mere outline of the proceedings which took place in reference to the New Market, and must be confined to the more general details concerning its establishment. The Committee, consisting of the six members of Convocation and six of the common Council, severally deputed to act by the two bodies of the university and city, held its first meeting on the 12th of June, 1771, and on the 20th of the same month appointed for their treasurer, Mr. William Wickham, and Mr., afterwards Sir William Elias, Taunton, for their clerk. The design and estimate of Mr. Gwynn for the internal arrangements as well as the elevation fronting the High Street having been approved, that gentleman was chosen for the architect, his plan being facilitated by the subsequent assent of the Duke of Marlborough to the request of the committee that he would, on his part, build the houses forming the

elevation in conformity with the architect's suggestion. Messrs. Tawney and Roberts delivered a proposal for building forty butchers' shops, but it appears that it was only so far accepted as to terminate in an agreement for their erection of twenty out of that number for the stipulated sum of £900 16s. 0d.; the remainder were built by Mr. Green, of Waterstock. The market had so far progressed at the beginning of October, 1773, as to enable the Committee to put up the shops to auction, and Mr. Wm. Forte being the best bidder for No. 1 at a rental of £9 15s. 0d. per annum, that lot was assigned to him. As a matter of special interest to those of our friends who so ably carry out the purposes of the market by their regular and excellent supplies, we will further mention the names of the other best bidders on this occasion. The lots No. 2, 11, 30, 39, 40, went respectively to Mr. Thomas Giles, Mr. David Alibone, Mr. Stephen Collier, Mr. James Stevens, and Mr. William Clarke, at ten pounds per annum each lot; and each of the successful bidders confirmed his bargain by a deposit of five guineas. On the 22nd of November, 1774, it was ordered to be made known by advertisements that the New Market would be entirely completed and ready for the reception of all persons resorting to it by St. Thomas's Day ensuing, and that every one would be prohibited after that day from exposing to sale in any other place. This, therefore, fixes the exact time of its being opened to the public; and there can be but one opinion as to its general convenience, and the great benefit it has been to the town. It is our business to narrate rather than criticise; but in respect to objections that have been broached as to its situation, it is sufficient to remark that there can be no contrivance for bringing a general market within half a street's length of every individual's house, and for his own particular accommodation.

Henceforth the different markets which were previously held in various parts of the town merged in this general one. The names of the Corn Market, Butcher Row, and Butter Bench readily suggest the former places of resort for the sale and purchase of particular articles of consumption. A sort of shed, supported by stone pillars and covered with a leaden roof, for the purpose of protecting the corn in unseasonable weather, originally ran down the middle of the first-mentioned street; it was of great antiquity, but, being found to be a great obstruction to the thoroughfare, was removed in the early part of the last century. The shambles in the middle of the Butcher Row gave way for the improvements to be made under the Commissioners' Act, when some

* They were severally occupied by Mrs. Deane, Mr. Franklin, and Mrs. Hills—the house of the first mentioned lying nearest towards the Turl, and close upon the back of Lincoln College stables—that of Mrs. Deane nearest towards the Corn Market—Mr. Franklin's house coming in between them.

† On the site of the present market were the "Apothecaria" and "Spiceria," or market for drugs and spices; so that the ground seemed destined for appropriation to the sale of commodities. Several academical halls also stood more anciently on it.

houses and buildings on the north and south sides of Carfax were also removed for the purpose of widening the street. At the same time the Butter Bench ceased to be used for the sale of the article which its name indicates. On its site stood a tavern, more anciently called Swyndlestoc, afterwards, the Mermaid, and at the time of which we write the Fleur-de-lis Inn. It is memorable for the occasion of the great conflict on St. Scholastica Day, in 1354, between the citizens and the scholars, of which the account given by Anthony Wood is, that John de Croydon, the vintner or landlord of the Inn, having served the scholars with bad wine and treated them with saucy language on their request to be served with better, they broke his head with the flagon.

The history of the markets, in Oxford as quoted by Peshall from A. Wood, contains some very remarkable particulars, both in respect of their antiquity and peculiarities. His description is too long even for a convenient abridgment, but an extract relating to the stations assigned to the sellers of different commodities will perhaps be deemed acceptable as not altogether inappropiate to our subject, and as also throwing some light on the origin of the jurisdiction of the University in this matter, and with it we will conclude this paper. "The citizens of Oxford withdrawing, for what reason I know not, the yearly payment of the fee farm rent from King Edward I., that prince seized the clerkship of the market to the use of the Exchequer, and let out the same sometimes to the constable of Oxford Castle, and sometimes to others who should pay best for it. Hence King Edward II., by virtue of the aforesaid seizure and royal claim (from whence this clerkship

never returned again to the citizens), by his writ on the 28th May, twelfth of his reign, dated at York, commanded the Mayor and Bailiffs of Oxford that the tradesmen of the town should be divided by limits and bounds, different from strangers, on the standing of their goods, and by these letters patent it was ordered that if the Mayor, Bailiffs, &c., did not conform hereto the university might do it, exclusive of their authority, who therefore ordained, Anno 1319,—the market as it had been of old, viz.,—That all sellers of wood and straw shall stand with their teams in the middle of High Street, between East Gate and All Hallows Church. That all sellers of faggots and other like fuel in carts and waggons shall stand between Oriel College Lane and the South of High Street. That the timber merchants shall stand between St. Thomas's Hall* and St. Edward's Lane.† The sellers of hops and swine between St. Mary's and All Hallows Church. Beer and ale drapers between St. Edward's Lane and the Chequers' Inn. The sellers of roots and coals by St. Edward's Lane, on the north of High Street. The sellers of gloves and whitawyers between All Hallows Church and the house near the Mitre Inn. The bakers between Carfax Conduit‡ and North Gate. The furriers and linen and woollen drapers by the two-faced pump.§ The tanners between Carfax and Somner's Inn.|| Sellers of butter, cheese, milk, and eggs, from the corner of Carfax towards the Old Bayley.¶ The corn sellers between the Cross Inn and North Gate.

* Near Swan Court. † Alfred Street. ‡ There is some inadvertency here, as the Conduit was not erected till 1610. § In the High Street. || A little to the South of the Cross Inn. ¶ Butcher-row.

from strangers by limits and bounds, and that, in respect of the standing of their respective goods, each trader or seller, or any one that came with wares to be exposed to sale on the market days—Wednesdays and Saturdays—should each “know his own station.”

In our last Paper we referred to this part of the history of Oxford markets, and pointed out the standings assigned for the sale of the different species of commodities. There is nothing very remarkable in such an arrangement; it is the natural suggestion of an ordinary capacity for establishing order; and we introduced the circumstance for the local interest attaching to the places so appropriated, and for a knowledge of the commodities in use with the other requirements of the town at the time.

The privileges of Oxford with respect to its market continued in this state till the great conflict between the citizens and scholars on the day of St. Scholastica, in the year 1354, when the Mayor and Burgesses were compelled formally to surrender all their rights and immunities into the King's hands. There was, however, a restitution of those rights the following year, with a reservation in favour of the university,—among other things not relating to our present subject—of the assize of bread, wine, and ale, with the correction and punishment of those who should violate it; the supervision and assay of weights and measures; cognizance of all forestallers, regrators, and vendors of unwholesome provisions. Dr. Wallis, in his “Abstract of Divers Privileges and Rights of the University of Oxford,” has with some tinge of academical bias, put an enlarged construction on the power thus conferred upon the university over dealers in the articles of trade just mentioned, and of its authority in other particulars. We will quote from this rather uncommon work what relates to the point:—“The custody of the assize or assay (as to quantity and quality of bread, wine, and beer or ale (which had before for some little time been granted to the Chancellor or Mayor in common), was (upon a great outrage of the townsmen on the scholars, 29th Edward III.), taken from the Mayor and granted solely and wholly to the Chancellor, which, I presume, doth extend, as was so reputed, to the licensing, suppressing, governing, and punishing the defaults of bakers, brewers, vintners, alehouse keepers, and other victuallers (though now the townsmen, as to licensing alehouses do inroach upon us, and bakers and brewers neglect to take licenses). Pursuant to which, upon broaching each vessel of wine, the Chancellor was to have a taste or assay brought him; instead of which they now present him with

a piece of plate every year; and the like from the brewers for each brewing, instead of which they used to make a present once a year to the Clerks of the market. And the like for the assize and assay of weights and measures, of which the Chancellor (or Clerks of the Market) or his officers are to take an account, allowing and marking such as are just, and destroying what are faulty, appointing others in their stead. And the clerkship of the market, with the perquisites, profits, and forfeitures of all these; and of regrators, forestallers, incompetent flesh, fish, and other fare brought to market.”*

When the order for the particular standings of traders with their wares in the High-street ceased to be observed, “a full market for beasts and hogs” was held on a void plot of ground, covering two acres, and situate partly in St. Ebbe, partly in St. Peter-le-Bailey, not far from the west gate of the city, and somewhere about the old entrance to the Castle. This was called the New Market, though it had probably been used by dealers in cattle at a much earlier period; but, “failing in resort,” in the reign of Henry VII. the ground was first let out in garden plots, and afterwards demised to private persons, to be built upon.

A market, to be held on Wednesday in Broken Heyes and Gloucester Green was subsequently granted to the people of Oxford by Queen Elizabeth, though it is said to have been only once or twice observed. A pleasure fair—fairs and markets are institutions closely allied—now held on the 3rd of May, and a weekly dealing in pigs on the latter spot, would seem to give this market a title, though a slender one, to something more than mere historic existence. It requires, however, a stronger effort to realize an adequate conception of Oxford as a staple town at that distant period even from the account handed down to us of a wool market formerly held on Holywell Green. Here, says A. Wood, the authority to whom we have occasion so frequently to refer, according to an old book, which belonged to the weavers of Oxford, twenty-three looms were working at once, and barges passed hereby and came up to it on the river Cherwell; and he adds, on the information of a note that he had seen, that “seventy fullers and weavers were there some time inhabiting.” A part of the ground on which these woolstaplers and manufacturers dwelt and carried on their occupation is now included in Magdalen College Grove; it was formerly called Parry's Mead, and a road led through it to the Mill from the east end of Holywell to the Mill. There also existed close by a street of houses, called

* See *Collectanea Curiosa*, vol. II., p. 85.

Beauvall-street, and a large stone cross stood upon the Green. There was another emporium for the same kind of traffic, called Forum Parvys—by which is meant Little Market—in North Gate Hundred, and a roll of 31st Edward 1st recites the attachment of one J. Pylle for receiving a piece of woollen cloth, which had been stolen in the market of Oxford, called Parvy.

The weavers were doubtless a very important class of tradesmen in Oxford formerly. At the time of the Conquest, or soon after, they formed a guild, and mention is made of them in their corporate character in a roll in the Pipe-office, dated 1155.

Fish Street, now St. Toles, and Milk Street, which has exchanged its old name for that of Littlegate, or St. Ebbe, bespeak the callings from which they obtained their old appellations.

The tradespeople more strictly speaking, according to the regulations for the government of the town or from that congenial feeling which dictates association with the same class, had separate localities for carrying on their particular line of business; and curious anecdotes are told of some of their peculiar customs,—some such as are sure to arise and take root among those consigned by their occupation to one spot. The shops and dwellings of the tailors, for the sake of example, were confined to St. Michael's parish, in the North-East Ward; and there prevailed among them in ancient time what they called revelling. On the vigil of St. John the Baptist, they were wont to "carouse themselves with all joviality in meats and drinks," and would afterwards take a circuit through all the streets of the city accompanied with a band of performers on divers musical instruments and sing songs in praise of their profession and patron saint. This practice being carried on to great license—for they greatly disturbed the quiet of the inhabitants—it was with another revelling circuit of some other profession, which took place on the vigil of St. Peter and St. Paul, prohibited by the King, Edward III., in his letters sent to the Chancellor for the purpose. Instances are not wanting to justify the opinion of Dr. Wallis, as expressed in our extract from his work, as to the right once possessed by the university in regulating the business of the trading community; they certainly exercised it, and that to a very great extent: we find among other cases that might be adduced, that the Vice-Chancellor in 1581, being minded to settle good order among the brewers, appointed certain days for brewing, and that Thos. Smith, a beer brewer of St. Aldate's parish, "denying obedience to his orders, was committed to the Castle and obliged to beg pardon of the Convocation."

We should, while speaking of the localities assigned to the different trades of the town, have noticed the Apothecaria and Spicaria, which were on the site of our present market. It might seem strange that a repository for spices should have been in such demand as to form so distinctive a class of dealers in them; but spiced wines were a very fashionable drink; and in the accounts of some of the colleges of ancient foundation we frequently find sums of money charged for spices (*pro speciebus*) used in their festivities. And here it may not be out of place to note that manciples of colleges were once very considerable personages; in so much that to check their ambition it was by an express statute ordered that no manticiple should be Principal of a Hall.

An account of the character of the Oxford Markets immediately preceding the absorption of them in the general one opened in 1774, appeared in our last number, and to it we have only to append a particular of Mr. Gwynn, the architect under whose judgment and directions the plans of the Commissioners with respect to the improvements of the town were so successfully carried into effect. Though not a literary, nor indeed an educated man, Mr. G. possessed great natural talent, and evinced remarkable taste in all that related to his profession. The following anecdote concerning him will show a tact he had for repartee. He was a fellow traveller by coach with Dr. Johnson, when the latter made his visit to Oxford in the year 1776,—the engagements of Mr. Gwynn with the city doubtless bringing him there at that time. Boswell was, of course, also of the company, and describes him as "a fine, lively, rattling fellow, whom the Doctor kept in subjection with a kindly authority." It would appear, however, that he had on this occasion a decided advantage in argument over the great master in conversational power, and, for a wonder, got an acknowledgment of his superiority from the usually authoritative disputant. The discussion had turned upon ornamental architecture, and, as Boswell writes, "the spirit of the artist rose against what he thought a gothic attack, and he made a brisk defence. "What, Sir, (remarked Gwynn) you will allow no beauty in architecture or in statuary? Why, then, should we allow it in writing? Why do you take the trouble to give us so many fine allusions in bright images and elegant phrases? You might convey all your instruction without these ornaments!" Johnson smiled with complacency; but said, "Why, Sir, all these ornaments are useful, because they obtain an easier reception for truth; but a building is not at all more convenient for being decorated with super-

fluens carved work." Gwynn was at last lucky enough to make one reply to Dr. Johnson which he allowed to be excellent. Johnson censured him for taking down a church, which might have stood many years, and building a new one at a different place, for no other reason but that there might be a direct road to a new bridge, and his expression was, "You are taking a church out of the way that the people may go in a straight line to the bridge." "No, Sir," said Gwynn, "I am putting a church *in* the way

that the people may not *go out of the way*." Johnson, with a hearty loud laugh of approbation, said "Speak no more. Rest your colloquial fame on this." See Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Croker's edition, vol. vi., pp., 69, 70.

We have to express our thanks to Mr. Dayman for calling our attention to this anecdote respecting Mr. Gwynn. N.B. Mr. G. spelled his name Gwynn, not as Boswell does.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. I.—NEW SERIES.

WE have hitherto endeavoured to review, with as much regard for chronological arrangement as was possible, the more prominent features of our Oxford history during the greater part of the eighteenth century. But such a detail, however interesting in itself, can necessarily give us but little insight into the Oxford of the time, into its habits and social life, its sympathies and prejudices, its moral influences, its educational position and utility. Nor can we guess at these things by any comparison with, or inference drawn from, the corresponding facts of the present day. For between this age and the last "a great gulf is fixed." It is almost impossible, without special study, to throw oneself into communion with the age of the first two Georges—to feel as though its men and women were of real flesh and blood, and not mere marionettes, whom an adroit hand is putting through fictitious bows and imaginary minuets. In the moral history of the world the last century is not of necessity a hundred years nearer us than its predecessor. Just as infancy, spite of the lapse of years that intervenes, is really nearer than manhood to that second childhood, a garrulous old age, so in the history of mankind, instead of a constant, unintermitted advance, we see the ages of the past recurring in a mysterious alternation, each, viewed by itself, seeming but the gulf that parts two alike in all but time, till a wider retrospect shows us that this age of severance has its counterpart too—and that the alternation is not an exception but a law.

And thus it is that we instinctively feel the great, the immeasurable distance that severs this age, so proud of its truth, its earnestness, its energy, its high and noble aims, from the heartlessness, the in-

difference, the frivolity—in one word, the utter worldliness of the eighteenth century. Were one of us, falling asleep in the 19th, to wake an Englishman of the 16th century, to don his ruff, his short cloak, buff jerkin, and trunk hose, he would find little novel, save his costume, or strange in those who thronged the streets of the time of Queen Bess save their "prythes's" and canary. The two centuries have common sympathies, common ideas, common aims. Drake is but the prototype of Nelson or Franklin, Sydney of Havelock, Raleigh of the emigrant or goldseeker of to-day. But fall asleep once more and wake—two centuries nearer, as chronologists have it—in the age of the Georges. Sally forth in well-combed peruke, gold laced coat, and silver shoe-buckles into Pall Mall or Merton Walks, and bow gracefully to the Delias and Phyllises that swim past you in their hoops and huge head-dresses, with a leer on their painted faces, and a roguish flutter of their fans. Chat with one of those gay beaux, all lace and perfumes, who are dangling their amber-headed canes with the true supercilious vacancy of men of the mode! Why so silent? Sir Fopling is voluble enough, can chat of to-morrow's masquerade, the intrigues of Lady Dash, or the latest epigram of George Selwyn; he will rally you on your "blues," rattle over the frolic of last night, how they smoked a country squire, carried off an actress, or knocked down a watchman. Or perchance—should you be dumb—he will turn with a charming ease to themes of graver import, though treated with as light an air; will demolish Christianity with a jest, and quote Toland for a sarcasm on "superstition."

We are about then to endeavour, before resuming

the detail of events during the latter years of the last century, to rebuild from the few facts which we have been enabled to collect, this Oxford of the first George's; to see what men lived then, and what manner of life theirs was; to listen to their disputations, to smoke a pipe of Virginia with them in the common-room, or chat over a bowl of punch in the coffee-house; in short, it is our purpose to give as full an account as we are able of the social, the political, the religious and the educational state of Oxford during the greater part of the eighteenth century.

"I cannot but fancy," writes one of Swift's correspondents, "that if one of our heads were dissected, after passing a winter campaign in town, it would appear just like a pamphlet shop; you would see a collection of treatises, a bundle of farces, a parcel of encomiums, another of satires, speeches, sermons, loose songs, addresses, epigrams, proclamations, poems, divinity lectures, quack bills, historical accounts, fables, and God knows what." Just such a medley as Lord Bathurst discovered in the head of a man of fashion, makes up the Oxford of the last century. It is in the most primary sense an "universitas," its little microcosm represents faithfully, though in miniature, every purpose, aim, or fancy of the world without, but it is without order or arrangement; there exists no centre round which these tendencies may group themselves; religion has dwindled down to a roll call, and education may be found anywhere save in the lecture-room. In spite of the imposing ceremonies that attest its greatness, in spite of past traditions and present pretensions, it might be said of the University—as was indeed said of it in fulsome eulogy—"we seek in vain for Oxford in Oxford." Great architectural efforts were being made, noble buildings were every day rising around, but to those who looked in all this costly display for learning and piety, the University resembled the Jew in Addison's simile—"a toad squatting among the ruins of a mighty temple."

For this "aggregation of atoms" however, one centre still existed, one focus to which all resorted, a little University within the University. I mean the coffee-house. The first introduction of this beverage into Oxford had been made by a Jew, who, in the year 1650, had offered it for sale at the Angel, in St. Peter-in-the-East, where "by some that delighted in Novelty," Anthony à Wood says, "it was drunk." But its progress had been rapid; a brother antiquary, Aubrey, testifies to "the modern advantage of coffee-houses in this city, before which men knew not how to be acquainted, but with their

own relations and societies." Tom Warton in his panegyric on Oxford ale could soon sing of

"The coffee-house
Of James or Juggins, where the grateful breath
Of loathed tobacco ne'er diffused its balm:
But the lewd spendthrift falsely deemed polite,
While steams around the fragrant Indian bowl,
Oft damns the vulgar sons of humbler ale."

and in 1759 we find an advertisement in the *Oxford Journal* for that year, which reveals the price of the beverage and the number of its vendors. "April 13th, 1759,—The Masters of Coffee-houses in Oxford find themselves under the disagreeable necessity of acquainting their customers that by the late additional duties on Coffee and Chocolate, together with the advanced price of these commodities, occasioned by their present scarcity, they shall be obliged to advance the price of Chocolate from four-pence to five-pence per dish, and Coffee from four-pence to five-pence per pot. Signed, James Horseman, Chas. King, Elizabeth Coombes, — Hobson, Thomas Hadley, John King, Thomas Browne, Thomas Roberson, William Harper, John Bullock." One exception, however, occurs to this unanimity, for Mrs. Anne Blowfield, of the George Coffee House, announces, in a counter advertisement, that she does not join in the rise. The same names, with but one addition, are met with in Warton's "Newsman's Verses" for 1770, when entreating entertainment he apostrophizes—

"Ye too, whose houses are so handy
For coffee, tea, rum, wine, and brandy:
Pride of fair Oxford's gaudy streets
Ye, too, our strain submissive greets!
Hear, Horseman, Spindlow, King, and Harper—
The weather, sure, was never sharper!"

Here it is that all meet, the pedant, the wit, the rake, and the gamester. At the door lounges "a man of Fire" as he terms himself, "a Slicer," "Towrow," "Blood," "Buck," as he is called by the rest of the world, with a loud triumphant "she blues" for the passing sempstress that blushes at his coarse buffoonery, a scurvy jest for the threadbare servitor, who scared from entrance by the terrible score in the bar hangs about the door, ready to barter a catch or song for a pint of ale, and a low bow for the "smart fellow" who saunters in with red stockings and elaborate peruke conning over a sonnet for the reigning toast, whose health has been sung from Headington to Hincksey. A deeper obeisance still he reserves for the fellow-commoner who struts by, freed from the drudgery of lectures or chapel by the golden tuft in the velvet cap, at once badge of honour and apology for ignorance—the magnet that draws in its train that crowd of the

shabbily-genteel toadeaters, ready at his call to "breakfast, dine, or sup with him, as he pleases; to drink with him, rake with him, borrow his money, or let him pay the reckoning." Dick Loungeit—poor devil—rather envies these fortunate toadies; falling into a reverie, whence he is awakened by that boon companion Tom Buck, who, having brought the repute of knowing every London vice from Westminster, is determined to leave behind him at Oxford the additional fame of seeing every comrade under the table. He has already tosted off his morning tankard at the Magpie, and is come now to the Coffee-house, partly for the Tory news, for Tory Tom is to the backbone ever since he learnt, on his arrival, that Tories drank deepest and swore loudest, partly to plan over his claret a debauch for tomorrow or a trip to the Paradise of town. The noise of these two toppers wonderfully disturbs Dr. Dry in his perusal of the Monitor, spite of his eagerness to return to pipe and common-room with the news of the Grand Monarque or the Great Mogul. There are others waiting for the Monitor—one in particular, to whom we owe so much for the dry notes in which he has handed down that age to us—Esquire Beadell, Mr. Hearne, is there, big mouthed, with set obstinate face and inquisitive eye, hair scornful of wig flowing to his shoulders, and ink-stained hand spreading over his unbuttoned slovenly waistcoat, chatting with Browne Willis over Grieses' great work on the "Roman Denarius," or the comparative antiquity of Oxford and Cambridge.

There is a stir however in the coffee-room now. Toppers, doctors, and antiquaries are making their way collegewards, for it is close upon twelve o'clock, and twelve during the earlier part of the eighteenth century was the dinner hour. "Time," says De Quincy, in a most ingenious essay on this subject,

"has very little connexion with the idea of dinner. It has travelled through every hour, like the hand of a clock, from ten in the morning till ten at night." He might have pushed the hour hand still further back. "Rise at five, dine at nine," says the old French proverb, and one traditional cause of Louis the Twelfth's death was his change of dinner hour from eight to twelve, in compliment to his young English bride. But the century which we are at present engaged with was the epoch of Dinners greatest advance. The Revolution of 1688 brought with its other "glorious" consequence a march of the dinner hour to two; the Rebellion of 1745 marks its progress to four. But, at the beginning of this century, Oxford was on this point in the rear of the metropolis. Even in 1723, when Queen Caroline sends a buck to Magdalen, the dinner at which it appears is at 10 a.m. Each advance was made amidst grumblings from the older and more conservative members. "University disputations," growls Hearne in his diary, "began on Ash Wednesday, at two and after, instead of at one; occasioned by several colleges altering the hour of dinner from 11 to 12, from people's lying in bed longer than they used to do. "'Tis an old custom," he writes in 1723, "for the scholars of all houses on Shrove Tuesday to dine at 10 o'clock, at which time the little bell, called pancake-bell, rings at St. Maries, and to sup at 4 p.m., which was always followed in St. Edmund's Hall as long as I have been in Oxford till yesterday, when they went to dinner at twelve and supper at six. Nor were there any fritters at dinner as there used always to be. When laudable old customs alter 'tis a sign learning dwindles!" How horrorstruck would he have been had he seen the great move in 1804, 1805, when those colleges that had dined at three advanced to four, those that had dined at four to five!

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. II.—NEW SERIES.

"OXFORD," sings Spenser,

"That fair city wherein make abode
So many learned imps that shoot abroad
And with their branches spread all Brittainy
No less than do her elder sister's brood—
Joy to you both, ye double nursery
Of arts, but Oxford, these doth Thame most glorify."

We have seen these "learned imps" assembled at their common rendezvous, the coffee-house, but to form any notion of the social aspect of the Oxford of the day it will be necessary for us—if our readers be not already weary of the subject—to follow them to their college homes, to dwell a little on their manners and discipline, their fashions and habits, their amusements and extravagances, while in succeeding papers we may do our best to complete the picture by some slight account of their educational and religious position.

We have seen the servitor waiting without the coffee-house, in fear to enter; and were we to follow him home to his college we should find him ready to perform as menial offices for his daily subsistence as he was then for a tankard of ale. The servitor was even now beginning to clash with the spirit of the place; he was practically an anachronism, the last relic of that great church system which, whether purposely or no, seemed to love the elevation of the very meanest to the same or a higher level than the princes and nobles of the day by the mere ladder of learning, the system which raised Becket to Canterbury, and Wykeham to Winchester. He was usually a lad of low extraction, but of promising parts, who came fresh from the taproom or the plough—not as now, to take his station among equals, but by menial offices to earn that instruction

which the University could afford. Sometimes the young country squire brought him up with him from the country, oftener he came up alone, seeking only to be quartered upon some wealthier student. He lived generally within call; when Erasmus for a time taught at Cambridge, "his servitor's rooms," Aubrey notes, "were close above his" at Queen's. He was wholly at his master's command, and sometimes at his mistress's. Willis, who afterwards acquired such fame and wealth through his discovery of the chalybeate properties of Astrop Wells, "was first servitor," says Aubrey in his memoirs of him, "to Dr. Iles, one of the Canons of Christ Church, whose wife was a knowing person in physic and surgery, and did many cures. Tom Willis then wore a blue livery cloak and studied at the lower end of the hall, by the hall door; was pretty handy, and his mistress would often have him to assist her in making of medicines. This did him no hurt, and allured him on." The knowledge which the half-educated boy thus picked up gave him a superiority over his less fortunate companions, of which he would sometimes mischievously avail himself. When one of our earliest mathematicians was counted an astrologer by the populace, "his servitor, to impose upon freshmen and simple people, would tell them that sometimes he should meet the spirits coming up his stairs like bees."

It need not, however, be supposed that in these services there was anything to humiliate or degrade them. In many the position resolved itself into a mere change of place. When the afterwards notable Sir John Birkenhead entered as a servitor at Oriel, his brother was a common trooper. Bishop Robinson was sent up through the kindness of his

patron from the plough. Whitfield was the son of a tavern-keeper at Gloucester, and to quote his own words, "I put on my blue apron and snuffers,* washed mops, cleared rooms, and in one word became professed and common drawer for nigh a year and a half," at the expiration of which time his mother hears that there is a possibility of admission at Pembroke and enters him there as a servitor. Of the poverty of the class no better instance can be found than Samuel Wesley, the father of the Wesleys who were to change the whole state of religion in England, and himself a very stirring person, to whom we shall have occasion subsequently to allude. He was the son of an ejected and starving nonconformist minister, and when at the age of sixteen he walked to Oxford and entered himself as a servitor at Exeter his whole worldly wealth amounted to no more than £2 16s. Yet, after supporting himself during his whole university career without any aid from his friends save a trivial five shillings, he set off to London to make his plunge into life with a capital increased to £10 15s. Five shillings, however, sneer as we may, seem to have been no uncommon "allowance" to a servitor of the time. In an amusing imitation of a servitor's letter, in one of the squibs of the time, we find the writer, after thanking his mother for her present of a Cheshire cheese, and announcing "I am a rising lad, mother, and have got preferment in college already, for our sexton being gonn into Heryfordshear has left me his depoty which is a very good place," concludes with believing he shall do very well, "if you will but send me t'other crowne."

While the less promising, however, were employed on the most menial errands, the more literate seem often to have been introduced to notice and patronage by the occupation of copying. When Laud wished to have some manuscripts transcribed, Birkenhead, whom we have before mentioned, was recommended to him as one "that wrote an excellent hand; who performed this business so well that the Archbishop recommended him to All Souls' College to be a fellow, and he was accordingly elected," hereafter to become scholar, poet, cavalier, and the witty editor of the *Mercurius Aulicus*. "I would not have your Spenserian design delayed," writes Johnson to Warton. "Let a servitor transcribe the quotations, and interleave them with references, to save time;" and at the beginning of this century Dr. Hyde complains that "some in the university have been very

troublesome in pressing that their servitors may transcribe manuscripts for them though not capable of being sworn to the Library." Many similar employments seem to have been open to servitors, which enabled them to subsist till their degree was attained, and distinction lay as open to them as to their nobler masters. How well they availed themselves of the opportunity many instances show, but none perhaps more so than one whom we have before alluded to, Bishop Robinson. Transferred from the plough to trade, his master, "finding him more inclined to books than to business, got him to Brasenose, where he was servant to Sir James Astrey, who was extremely kind to him." He became fellow of Oriel, envoy to Sweden, Bishop in turn of Bristol and London, but his greatness did not obliterate the memory of his days of toil and poverty; he was enabled to relieve his benefactor's son with a chaplaincy, and the scholarships which he founded at Oriel attest his gratitude to the university.

At the beginning of the present century the order was practically extinct, but, considering the facilities it afforded for the entrance of a class into the university who are now in effect shut out of it, some may perhaps be indisposed to join in Mr. De Quincey's rejoicings over "the wise discontinuance of the order itself in those colleges which were left to their own choice in this matter."

Although, perhaps, the story of Oliver Goldsmith has elevated the waiting in hall into greater notoriety than any of the other menial services which it fell to the servitor's lot to perform, we have reserved them for less prominent mention because in reality they were not peculiar to this order of students. Battlers, a rank which has also disappeared, had, in addition to other small perquisites, the dishes from the table of the fellow or gentleman commoner whom they served. And it was the duty of scholars on the foundation, says Dr. Newton, "to wait in hall on the fellows by turns."

And this brings us to the consideration of the "poor scholar" of those days; "poor" being then no mere statutory epithet, but a reality—for the poor scholar somewhat of a sad one. Scholars of note could fairly lay claim to it; "Mr. Lydiatt of New, said by competent judges to excel Scaliger," vibrates all his days between Oxford Bocardo and the King's Bench, spending his last penny on books and "being" says Hearne, "in a manner starved to death." Mr. Trap found our Poetry professorship not unwelcome, "being but in mean circumstances." Oakley, the first eastern scholar of his age, studied Arabic and wrote his history in Oxford gaol. Dr. Hyde, who

* "So the word is printed in his own account. It may be a misprint, for 'Sooggers,' as sleeves worn by cleanly men in dirty employments are called in some parts of England."
—Southey.

gave the first great impulse to Oriental studies, burnt his unsaleable books to boil his kettle with. Deep-read Mr. Hailes (Hearne recurs to that grim phrase) "All will allow to have been in a manner starved to death." Nor were these poor scholars at the University in a better position. This poor scholar of ours (as we have him etched for us in the satires of the day, for he was the common butt of wit and poetaster) will muffle his face in his gown as he passes the shops of his creditors; will run away in dread of battels from the maniple if he meet him; will barricade himself in his garret—"vile" perhaps, but with a window commanding the sole means of approach for a dun. He is hunger-pinched, glad to dine upon scraps, and drink "small acid tiff." If it be cold he must blow his chilled fingers to warm them, for there is not a knob of coal in the cellar; he must sit in the dark to mend his tattered stockings or rent galligaskin—for there is not a candle in his closet. None cares for his society—if he walks, his walk is a solitary one—if he sits in his garret he has no companion but "the tube as black as wintry chimney or a well-polished jet;" he may scribble a verse now and then, but his musings will be interrupted—

Whether the plaintive voice
Of laundress shrill awake his startled ear,
Or barber spruce with sapple look intrude,
Or tailor with obsequious bow advance,
Or groom invade him with defying front
And stern demeanour,

from whose persecution he has no refuge but the wood-hole. Worst of all miseries he must go supperless to bed, for the Bursar has "crossed" him at the buttery, and not a pothouse will "tick" for him more.

It must not be thought that this picture because satirical is too highly coloured. The "mending of galligaskins" indeed seems to have borne a different aspect to our ancestors from that which it bears to us. Dr. Kettle, of whom Aubrey gives us so many odd details, when choosing a son-in-law, "seldom found Bathurst minding of his booke, but mending of his old doublet or breeches; he was very thrifty and penurious, and upon this reason carried away this fair creature." But it is noted of this same eccentric doctor to his honour (and it bears on the question which we are treating) that "where he observed dilligent boys that he guessed had but a slender exhibition from their friends, he would many times putt money in at their windows, that his right hand did not know what his left did." Nor was this penury of modern date.

"For want of means, the University judge me—
I have been fain to heel my tutor's stockings
At least seven years,"

says Ford in his *Vittoria Corombona*, and though Padua is the scene alluded to, it can hardly be doubted that his description is drawn from the Universities where he had himself been a student.

But the clearest and the most touching picture of the position of the poor scholar in the eighteenth century is that which has been given us in the few faint traditions which Boswell was enabled to collect respecting Johnson's life at Oxford. Some of his contemporaries could recollect the awkward, blear-eyed, convulsive figure, lounging at the college gates, the centre of a circle of gay students, entertaining them with his wit, spurring them on to rebellion against discipline, or detaining them from their studies. He had no close friendship with any of his fellow collegians; men and tutors stood alike in awe of this strange wild creature who had brought such a store of curious and uncommon reading with him, and who was already known as a poet of no mean abilities; whose pride repelled every overture for the relief of his griping poverty, and whose reckless wit drew down remonstrances from friendly tutors, which "made me ashamed," as he afterwards confessed, "though I was too proud to own it." He ruled his college chums as he ruled his associates in after life. "Sir," said Edmonds, an old college associate, when he casually met him years after, "I remember you would not let us say 'prodigious' at college." But all the memories of him were not harsh and stern like these. "I'll convince you," he said to this very friend, "that I recollect you. Do you remember our drinking together at an ale house near Pembroke Gate? At that time you told me of the Eton boy, who, when verses on our Saviour turning water into wine were prescribed as an exercise, brought up a single line, 'Vidit et erubuit lymphā pudica Deum,' and I quoted another fine line from Camden on the death of a king who was succeeded by a prince of equal merit 'Mira cano, sol occubuit, nox nulla secuta est.' But his poverty seldom can have allowed him such relaxations. We can see how grinding it must have been when we find him relinquishing his visits to his friend Taylor, because his shoes were worn out, and it was noticed by the Christ Church men—when a friend in pity places a pair of new shoes at his door, and his pride makes him fling them away with indignation—when the very mention of Dr. Adams's remark "he was caressed and loved by all about him—was a gay frolicsome fellow—and passed there the happiest part of his life" forces out from him, when years had passed over these memories, the touching reply "Ah, Sir, I was mad and violent—it was bitterness they mistook for frolic. I was miserably poor and thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit, so I disregarded all power and all authority."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. III.—NEW SERIES.

THERE are certain types which Nature seems never tired of repeating—if they vanish for a time, it is only to spring up into a new life under some different name or under a fresh set of circumstances. And among this class we may fairly reckon the Oxford Freshman. There is no greater difference between the young novice of 1760 and the Freshman of a hundred years later, than between the hoop of the one period and the crinoline of the other. Their costume, their manners may differ; but they blush with the same 'verdancy,' pass through the ordeal of the same merciless ridicule, develop very much into the same characters.

We are enabled, and principally by the lively sketches of Amherst, to gain a pretty distinct conception of the Freshmen of the eighteenth century. We see the public schoolman, just freed from the rod of Busby's successors, strutting about town for a week or two before entrance, courting his school-fellows' envy with his "new suit of drugget, his pair of prim ruffles, his new bobwig, and brazen-hilted sword," swaggering at coffee houses, and giving himself a scholar's airs at the bookshops. We see the country greenhorn, "mounted on an easy pad," trotting with father and mother along the Oxford road; or meet in the High the rough country farmer with his equally unkempt hopeful, staring moodily about in "their lindsey woolsey coats, their greasy sunburnt heads of hair, clouted shoes, yarn stockings, flapping hats with silver hatbands, and long muslin neckties, with red at the bottom." They are domineered over by the butler, overawed by the tutor, and introduced by him to their set, "a parcel of honest merry fellows," who complete their initiation by "carrying them drunk to bed for three

or four nights together." They are awoke by the bell at six, and bestow a pardonable malediction on the servitor who bids them tumble into chapel with heads reeling from the last night's debauch. A few weeks and they are swaggering in their new bobwigs and Oxford-made shoes; drugget supersedes lindsey woolsey and worsted stockings the yarn; and a month or two sees them metamorphosed into complete smarta, "d——g the old country putts, their fathers, with twenty foppish airs and gesticulations." The smart of the day rises late in an age of early risers. Nothing indeed is more curious than the great change of manners in this particular. Milton, we know, rose at four in the morning, even after he had lost his sight, for the purpose of study. Hobbes, when at Oxford, was remarkable for the early hour at which he rose. Warton, who would saunter and chat all day, rose in the early morn to study and court the muse in his favourite walks along the Cherwell or up Headington Hill. And at the very close of the century we find Shelley's biographer asserting "many of the wholesome usages of antiquity had ceased at Oxford, that of early rising however still lingered," and from his subsequent statements it seems to have been thought even at that time a piece of gross indolence to remain in bed after seven in the morning, at whatever hour the sleeper had retired to rest.

But the smart's breakfast is scarce over by ten; a few notes on the flute—a glance at the last French comedy, and in academic undress he is strolling to Lyne's coffee house, the great rendezvous of the loungers of the day, where at the risk of inked ruffles, he indites a billet-doux or a stanza to the reigning Sylvia of the town. From Lyne's he saun-

ters for a turn or two upon the Park or under Merton wall "while the dull regulars," the "slow" fellows, "are at dinner in hall according to statute." A little dinner in his rooms at one, and an hour devoted to dress prepare him for the great business of the afternoon. Dress is indeed with him a matter of serious import. It was a time when hundreds were spent on the costly embroideries of a single suit; when a coat was handed down like an estate from father to son; when a man could count it no reproach if told that he carried all he possessed upon his back. Those who have laughed—and who has not—over the adventures of Roderick Random will remember the bold stroke of that hero when driven to his last resources he expends them on the most costly finery and puts his fortune on the hazard of a conquest. But an equally amusing instance of the excessive value attached to dress occurs in one of the bits of news which the *Oxford Journal* for 1755 communicates to its readers. A young gentlewoman, it appears, had thrown herself into the Serpentine "which being seen by the gentlemen and ladies going to Kensington, one of the gentlemen, notwithstanding his being very finely drest, had the humanity to run to her relief and jumped in just time enough to save her." With no little care has our loungeer studied the rustle of the stiff silk gown, the graceful dependence of the long flaxen tie-wig, the defiant cock of his laced hat or huge square cap, his red or white stockings, the red tops of his Spanish leather shoes, the silk-lined coat, the laced ruffles at breast and wrist. With what sublime contempt does he look down on "a ragged servitor of Jesus, or a half-starved scholar of St. John's," on Johnson with his worn-out shoes, or Whitfield's "unpowdered hair, woollen gloves, dirty shoes and patched gown," as he passes by with tripping gait and jaunty dangle of his clouded amber-headed cane. The afternoon is spent by our exquisite in learning the news of the town or parading before the windows of a toast. He drinks a dram of oitron at Hamilton's and saunters off at last to chapel "to shew how genteely he dresses and how well he can chaunt." Chapel ended, he has an assignation to tea with some fair one, whom he amuses with all-important discussions, whether any wears "finer lace than his friend Jack Flutter, has handsomer tie-wigs, or cuts a bolder bosh than Tom Paraquet, is a handier man at a tea table than Robin Flutter, or plays ombre better than Valentine Frippery." He waits on her to the fashionable places of resort, to Merton, Magdalen Walks, or Paradise Garden, whispers his verses in her ear as he attends her home, sups, and

then turns to the less refined pleasures of the night. He is soon one of the group round the table of the Mitre or the Tuns, is loud in his song, deep in puns, put, or cards, toasts his mistress in the spiced cup with the brown toast bobbing in it, and staggers home to his college "a toper all night as he trifles all day."

Almost a century before, the same character had been wittily painted by Dr. Earle, under the name of "a mere young gentleman of the University." "He is one that comes here to wear a gown, and to say hereafter he has been at the University. His father sent him thither because he heard there were the best dancing and fencing schools; from these he had his education—from the tutor, the oversight. . . His study has commonly handsome shelves, his books neat silk strings, which he shews to his father's man, and is loth to unty or take down for fear of misplacing. On foul days for recreation he retires thither and looks over the pretty book his tutor reads to him, for which his tutor gives him money to spend next day. His main loitering is at the library, where he studies arms and books of honour, and turns a gentleman critic in pedigrees. Of all things he endures not to be mistaken for a scholar, and hates a black suit, though it be made of sattin. His company is ordinarily some stale fellow that has been notorious for an angle to gold hatbands."

Most of these exquisites were gentleman-commoners, a class which is now rapidly decaying, but which was then in its fullest vigour. They were allowed either to dine with the Fellows or at a separate table of their own; their college charges were double those of an ordinary member, and a liberty even more than proportionate to their position seems to have been allowed them. Every temptation to idleness was in fact thrown in their way. They were told plainly that it was not for men of their fortune to mind exercises; if studious, the gentleman commoner was taunted with being "morose," and "a heavy bookish fellow;" if his wine was good, the Fellows would forgive every delinquency, and excuse even absence from morning chapel. "My own introduction," says Gibbon, "to the University of Oxford forms a new era in my life, and at the distance of forty years I still remember my first emotions of surprise and satisfaction. I my fifteenth year I felt myself suddenly raised from a boy to a man; the persons whom I respected as my superiors in age and academical rank entertained me with every mark of attention and civility; and my vanity was flattered by the velvet cap and silk gown which distinguish a gentleman commoner from a plebeian student. A decent allowance, more

money than a schoolboy had ever seen, was at my own disposal; and I might command among the tradesmen of Oxford an indefinite and dangerous latitude of credit." "The want of experience, of advice, and of occupation soon betrayed me into some improprieties of conduct, ill-chosen company, late hours, and inconsiderate expense. My growing debts might be secret, but my frequent absence was visible and scandalous, and a tour to Bath, a visit into Buckinghamshire, and four excursions to London in the same winter were costly and dangerous frolics. The irksomeness of a cloistered life repeatedly urged me to wander, but my chief pleasure was that of travelling, and I was too young and bashful to enjoy, like a manly Oxonian in town, the pleasures of London. In all these excursions I eloped from Oxford; I returned to college; I eloped again in a few days, as if I had been an independent stranger in a hired lodging, without once hearing the voice of admonition, without once feeling the hand of control; yet my time was lost, my expenses were multiplied, my behaviour abroad was unknown; folly as well as vice should have awakened the attention of my superiors, and my tender years would have justified a more than ordinary degree of restraint and discipline." Nor are the reminiscences of the first Lord Malmesbury, then Mr. Harris, less severe on the University system:—"In fact, the two years of my life I look back to as most unprofitably spent were those I past at Merton, 1762. The discipline of the University happened at this time to be so low that a gentleman commoner was under no restraint, and never called on to attend lectures, chapel, or hall. My tutor, an excellent and worthy man, according to the practice of all tutors of the time, gave himself no concern about his pupils. I never saw him but during a fortnight when I took it into my head to study trigonometry. The set of men with whom I lived were very pleasant, but very idle fellows; our life was an imitation of High Life in London. Luckily drinking was not the fashion, but what we did drink was claret, and we had our regu-

lar round of evening card parties, to the great derangement of our finances. It has often been a matter of surprise to me that so many of us made our way so well in the world, and so creditably."

How far these excesses might be carried with comparative impunity we learn from the anecdotes which are preserved of Foote's residence in the University just previous to 1740. The future wit, though entered on the foundation of Worcester as founder's kin, seems to have plunged at once into all the dissipation of the town. His dress was of the utmost extravagance, and we can guess at its character from the frock suit of green and silver lace bagwig, sword, bouquet, and point ruffles in which he was soon afterwards to make his entrance into the Bedford, and at once take his place among the critics and the wits. In every sort of reckless adventure Foote soon took the lead; he acted Punch in disguise through the streets, and amused the crowd with his ridicule of the pomposity of his college's head. Provost Gower, the most lumbering of pedants, was the object of his especial persecution. On one occasion when summoned to receive a reprimand from the insulted dignitary, he presented himself with the greatest appearance of gravity and submission, but with a dictionary under his arm. No sooner had the pompous harangue begun than at the first long word Foote interrupts the Doctor, begs pardon with the greatest formality, and turns over his dictionary to find out its meaning, and after a moment's pause requests the Provost to proceed. Yet even this grave insult seems to have passed without severe punishment, and it was not till the audacious rake, on his return from a trip to Bath, dashed through Oxford in a coach and six greys, accompanied by "not very worshipful lady society," tricked out in ridiculous finery, and attended by a couple of footmen, that the authorities took him gravely to task, and though he quitted college in consequence, it is expressly mentioned that his departure was voluntary, and "without any public censure."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. IV.—NEW SERIES.

WE have in a previous paper sketched the rapid metamorphosis of a bumpkin into a fop, but it must not be supposed that the change was always so complete or instantaneous. The freshman sometimes transferred to college the habits of school: kept his room, buried himself in his books, and seldom appeared but in a dirty brown wig and linen that would have borne washing. Taunts were ineffective, though conveyed as delicately as those which De Quincey has recorded. "I neglected," says that entertaining writer, in speaking of his Oxford career in 1803, &c., "I neglected my dress habitually, and wore my clothes till they were threadbare, partly under the belief that my gown would conceal defects, more from indisposition to bestow upon a tailor what I had destined for a bookseller. At length an official person sent me a message on the subject." This was, however, disregarded, and "one day I discovered that I had no waistcoat that was not torn, or otherwise dilapidated, whereupon, buttoning up my coat to the throat, and drawing my gown close about me, I went into the hall. A grave man, with a superlatively grave countenance, whom I did not personally know, begged to enquire from a friend sitting opposite 'whether he had seen the last *Gazette*, because he understood it contained an order in Council interdicting the future use of waistcoats.' His friend replied with the same perfect gravity that he trusted so sensible an order would be followed up by an interdict on breeches—they being still more disagreeable to pay for."

Stubborn, however, as our student might be in his poverty and bookishness, his friends had still one weapon to try ere they despaired of his reforma-

tion. "Had he never seen Miss Flavia, the top toast of the town? Why, she had been heard to say a thousand times in company—'Mr. — is a man of fire; 'tis a thousand pities he is such a sloven!'" The poor fellow eats no supper, retires to walk restlessly about his chamber, flings his brown wig into the fire, and swears, like one distracted, that he will see her to-morrow. An interview with his mercer, a few hints of future expectations, a bill begun, and our hero is in an hour a smart. The assemblies are soon buzzing with the news that Dick dresses at Miss Flavia; the girl in her turn is enraptured at her conquest; Dick flings aside his band and ruffles, wearies his brain with no heavier task than the penning a sonnet, a billet, or an epigram, and dwindles into the hanger-on of a toast.

Whatever reason be assigned, it is certain that the toast of a hundred years since occupied a far more conspicuous place in Oxford society than her nameless successors in the present day. *Tallers* and *Spectators* did not deem her beneath their notice; she was the theme of a hundred songs, jests, satires. Her father—so runs the sarcastic description of her which Amherst has given—a good honest tradesman, dreams of raising his family by her marriage with a parson or a lawyer; the little Miss, not yet in her "teens," is forbidden to play with the muckworms of the neighbourhood; she graduates at a dancing school, and sallies forth to victory with no arms save "her hoop, her gay suit of clothes, and two or three thick Holland smocks." She is assiduous at balls and assemblies; you may meet her in every public walk, coyly listening to the compliments of the chance gowman who has had the happy

audacity to address her, who waits on her home, calls the next day, and dangles ever after.

The time has gone by since grave dons complained that, with a court and ladies of honour invading the cloistered shades, all learning was at an end; since, in her rooms at Merton, Barbara Villiers, Lady Castlemaine, gave birth to a son, whom the Merry Monarch did not blush to claim for his own; since Lady Isabella Thynne—"the possessor of all the virtues save one," as Aubrey tells us—used to come with a friend of hers to morning prayers at Trinity College Chapel "half-drest, like angels," or make her entrance upon the college walks with a lute playing before her—just as Waller sang of her:

"The trembling strings about her fingers crowd,
And tell their joy for every kiss aloud."

But the toast still carries on the war of her sex against academic studies. The smart, with his hair just "wired" by the friseur, and his cap trimmed to the smallest size, parades daily beneath her window for the chance of a look or an ogle; grave Dons lay down their pipes for her society; should Patty go on Sunday to church, "the students stand in rows at her pew door;" she is toasted at the clubs, and the High Borlase, at its annual meeting at the King's Head, chooses her their patroness for the year: while in the Trinity Gentleman Commoners and Bachelors' Common-room the chosen Laureate is reciting, crowned with a wreath of laurel, a copy of verses in her honour. Toasts, indeed, seem to have been the Oxford Muses of the last century, and to have inspired every poetaster with a passion for song. Miss Briken den cannot go down to Nuneham without the trees being invited to "rush into the flood" to meet her, while the laggards—the "gouty oaks," we suppose, of Tennyson's *Amphion* are exhorted to—

"Peep o'er their fellows' heads to view the fair,
Whose name upon their wounded bark they bear."

Miss Polly Foote's brief visit becomes the basis of a little epic, where Cupid sends this lovely emissary to make war upon the favourite seat of Pallas, stations her battery at a Venetian window, and joys to see

"What troops of gazing students fell,
Stretch'd o'er the smooth parade."

Folios are relegated to their former dust; logic is abandoned, pipes neglected, and churches deserted for Polly, till at the prayer of the assaulted Deity Jove decrees, as the sole means of saving Learning's seat from destruction, that "Iris should next week convey fair Polly back to London." Here and there, it must be owned, this great engine of compliment

was turned into an instrument of satire. Lucetta was taunted as one who

"Bears Jove's lightnings in her eyes,
But in her voice his thunder;"

or Belinda reminded in mellifluous verse of her rouge and cosmetic, or scandal just hinted at the "three-pair window" whence the Troughs looked down on their admirers below.

The favourite resort of the toasts was Merton Walks, which, during the early part of the century, constituted the fashionable Oxford promenade. Every Sunday night saw them "thronged with young gentlemen and gentlewomen," as Hearn soberly puts it, "like a fair." We can very dimly discern through the chance notices of the time which have reached us, the more prominent features of the scene—the brilliant medley of smirking beaux and smiling belles, the laughter and jest and repartee, the soft compliment and whispered assignation, the couples retreating to talk sentiment in the more retired corners, the elders talking fashion and scandal in the broad promenade, the tap of the snuff box, the rattle of the fan. We can see the Brooks towering high above her rivals, "the tall cedar that o'erlooks the crowd," or meet the sisterly Troughs, about whom there are such whispers and suspicions. Margaret with her "proud cold" bearing, contrasting so strongly with the alternating smile and frown of the coquette Maria. Not that all is joy and happiness here, "radiant Astre" has a cloud upon her brow—"has generous love no charms or riches more"—she has, in plain English, been jilted in favour of a wealthier widow; while Hayward, "every fair in one," is scornfully telling the simpering Strephons of the impudent fellow whose billet desired her visit to his chamber—alone.

The source from which much of this sketch is derived is a small poem called "Merton Walks, or the Oxford Beauties." The Queen of Beauty turns Jacobite, and flies from a court where "German eyes" bear rule, till passing over "Rhedyoina's towers," she sees a thousand beauteous nymphs—

"A thousand sportive youths contrived for joy,
As her Adonis fair, but not so coy."

She determines to fix her empire there, and the poet summons this brilliant troop of her subjects to a closer review. From this point all is indiscriminate flattery. We can almost picture to ourselves the author, sallying forth in the conscious perfection of fashion, and whispering in every ear that strain of elaborate compliment, the art of which Louis Quatorze had bequeathed—his only benefaction to his admiring century. He learns from "Brunetta's eyes" that "beauty to no colour is confined—the

fair, the brown, all equally destroy;" he mourns over the loss of Eleanora, and beflatters Celia with a curious cento of mythological allusion. Merton Gardens are transformed for the nonce into "Ida's hill," and our poetic Paris only gets rid of the difficulty of selection by suddenly apostrophising a passing "Miss Harris," as it seems, a visitor "from Winton's towers the lovely robber came." But, little disturbed by the incident, our author is already reminding Miss Law of her trip to the Woodstock races, how at her appearance "the winged coursers passed unheeded by;" he is thrown into an affected ecstasy as he greets another beauty, "where Hammond is, with every beauty crowned, a thousand Cupids scatter deaths around;" he is whispering with "charming White," and ransacked at last of all his store of compliments, he is forced to adore "lovely Wright," by attributing to her all the united perfections of her rivals. By this time we have nearly forgotten the epic and its machinery, but they are suddenly recalled at the close; the Goddess sees Mira, and constitutes her vice-gerent of the realms of Beauty, and leaves her Cupids as a body-guard. Cumbersome as it is, the poem may be read with amusement; but there are reflections suggested by these honied lines which will not bear to be dwelt on here. Who was Brunetta, Eleanora. Mira? What names are hid under the disguised B—y, T—l, L—w, and P—y? The buzz and the rustle are hushed, the fans that those hands wielded so deftly are dragged from old lurking places and given to the children to be torn to pieces, the feigned name that was meant but as a mark has turned into the sole

title on tombstones, and Beauty is lost in a line of asterisks.

Our poet, however, reckons little of this. Life is with him a matter of infinite jest and merriment; he is a member of the Amorous Club, and dreams that love consists in pledging a glass to every letter of his mistress's name. To this club (our readers will perhaps remember the charming paper of Steele, which we are quoting) no introduction is requisite but "a mistress and a poem in her praise. Without the latter no one can be admitted, for he that is not in love enough to rhyme is unqualified for our society." Disputes would even here creep in, "A young student, who is in love with Miss Elizabeth Dimple was so unreasonable as to begin her health under the name of Elizabetha, which so exasperated the Club that by common consent we retrenched it to Betty." Absence of mind is an indispensable qualification. They "look upon a man as of no company that does not sigh five times in a quarter of an hour; and look upon a member as very absurd that is so much himself as to make a direct answer to a question." There are dangers, however, to be run in the pursuit of sentiment. They are obliged to live in secrecy; "our constitution runs counter to the University in which we live, for in love there are no doctors, and we all profess so high a passion that we admit of no graduates in it." There are other perils, too, of a more serious character which may have to be encountered. Churchill's early marriage prevented his admission at Merton, and a passing flirtation with a toast sent Nash, the future monarch of Bath, in disgrace from the University.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. V.—NEW SERIES.

THE literary and social life of the last century seemed to centre in its Clubs. Dryden's arm-chair recalls to us Will's; Addison held "his little senate" at Button's; Johnson gave his name to one which continues famous to this day. The conclusion of our last paper would show that Oxford faithfully copied the fashion of the Metropolis. But the Amorous Club—whether the mere creation of the graceful essayist, or (as is more probable) founded on real Oxford reminiscences—was not the only instance which can be given. The *Terræ Filius* gives us an account full of absurd exaggeration, but evidently founded on a substratum of fact, of a Poetical Club, presided over by Tom Warton, the father of the more celebrated poet of the same name. The Three Tuns is the place chosen for its deliberations, with this proviso—"That Mr. Bradgate would keep good wine, and a pretty wench at the bar, both of which are, by all critics, allowed to be of indispensable use in poetical operations." No member is admitted without certificate of distinction in "tale, catch, epigram, sonnet, tragedy, comedy, or epic." A reverend Doctor alone is allowed to smoke in a corner; to the rest tobacco is forbidden, "the fumigation thereof being supposed to cloud the poetical faculties and to clog the subtle wheels of imagination." The members "clear their throats with a glass of port and a loud Hem!" The utmost licence is allowed to inuendo or double-entendre, but on one point, orthodoxy, the utmost rigid severity prevails. When a daring versifier argues that "since some one God believe, some thirty, and some three," since men differ universally on this point, while on the worship of woman all agree—

"Since in this faith no heresies we find,
To love let our religion be resigned,
And Cælia reign, the goddess of mankind,"

the jest is voted heretical, burnt by the hands of the small-beer-drawer, and its author expelled the club.

More licence was probably allowed in the crowd of clubs whom a letter in the *Spectator* mentions as having sprung up about the beginning of the last century,—the Punning Club—the Witty Club—and the Handsome Club. The last found a formidable rival in a burlesque of itself, which Steele has immortalised under the name of the Ugly Club. Their rules were embodied in an "Act of Deformity;" "a visible queerness in aspect;" a "peculiar cast of countenance;" "gibbosity," or "obliquity," were the necessary qualifications for admission. The figures of Esop, Thersites, Scarron, and Hudibras adorned their club-room. Over their pipes and ale they recited their congratulations to Mrs. Touchwood on the loss of her front teeth;" or to Mrs. Andrión "on the deformity of her left shoulder;" or toasted Mrs. Vizard with acclamation on the ground of her advance in ugliness since the small-pox.

But of the majority of the Clubs of the time we know only the names. We meet with them in quaint advertisements, as in the following from the *Oxford Journal* for 1775:—"The brethren of the Arcadian Society are requested to meet at the Angel Inn, Oxford, to ballot for some fresh candidates. (Signed) Alpheisibæus, Crook-holder." Here and there we get a casual glimpse of their doings within, as in Hearne's mention of the meeting of the "High Borlace at the King's Head, when Miss Wickham of Garsington was chosen patroness in room of Miss Storrow

that was patroness last year." But for the most part we are left to glean what we can from the mere names, and these are generally characteristic. Our notion of the "Nonsense Club" is verified when we learn that George Colman, Bonwell Thornton, and Lloyd were among its first founders; nor can any mistake the meaning of the "Jelly-bag Club," who remember that famous little epigram from which it derives its title. We can only fancy to ourselves the nightly gathering, the chat, laughter, and wit, the poem read and criticised, the toast drunk in repeated potations, the candles burning dim and blue in the smoky atmosphere. For if our own can yield to no other age in the universal diffusion of the habit of smoking, the last century seems to have been especially the era of *old* smokers. We meet with no mention of the Common-room of those days without some reference to pipes, Scholars and divines derived inspiration from it in their studies. The Civil Wars furnished the great means for the diffusion of this taste; soldiers brought it from Germany, and marches and counter marches spread it over England. How firm a root it took in Oxford we see from Dr. Plot's mention of the bed of white clay at Shotover, "which during the late wars, in the siege, was wholly used for making tobacco pipes." By this time it had conquered every prejudice against its use. When Raleigh, "standing in a stand at Sir Robert Poyntz's parke at Acton took a pipe of tobacco, it made the ladies quitt it till he had done." And, writing in 1680, Aubrey adds, "within these thirty-five years 'twas scandalous for a divine to take tobacco." Now Aldrich could print in company with his "Hark, the bonny Christ Church bells," a "Smoking Catch to be sung by four men smoking their pipes, not more difficult to sing than diverting to hear." The 'Sam' of the "I prythee, Sam, fill," was Aldrich's friend, Sampson Eastwiche, of Christ Church, and of the three other singers one was the Dean himself. So notorious was his love of smoking that a young gentleman—so runs the story—betted with a friend that the Dean was smoking at the moment of their talk, which happened to be ten in the morning. The Dean received his visitors, laughed good-humouredly at their tale, and replied "you see you have lost your wager, for I am not smoking—but filling my pipe." But perhaps tobacco never took so public a position as in the exhibition which we find mentioned in Hearne's Diary for the year 1723. "At two o'clock in the afternoon was a smoking match over against the Theatre, the scaffold being built up at Finmore's, an ale-house. 'Twas thought a journeyman tailor of St. Peter's in the East would

have it, he smoking faster and being many pipes before the rest, but at last he was so sick 'twas thought he would have died, and an old soldier smoking gently smoked the three ounces quite out, and four or five more pipes the same evening."

There is another habit peculiar in the excess to which it then was carried, to the age of which we are treating, which—however disagreeable to dwell upon—it would be altogether absurd to omit in a notice of this century. It was a century of hard drinkers. The vice was not confined to grade or age, the Don was carried to bed as often as the servitor, "Dr. Grabe, the great theologian's way of writing was to have a bottle of ale, brandy, or wine by him—and every three or four lines of writing to drink thereof." Hearne does not scruple to call the fellows of University "debauchees;" their senior fellow passed by the significant name of "Jolly Ward." The scurrilous *Terra Filius* of 1733, in his "speech as it was to have been spoken at the public Act," could taunt the fellows of All Souls: "I would willingly next pay a visit to their college, if I could find it out; it used to stand on the right hand above Queen's, but if we may judge from the resort of its members we should judge it to be translated over the way, and that the Three Tuns Tavern was All Souls' College did not the effigies of the good Archbishop over the door convince us to the contrary." The fellows of St. John's "valued themselves for having the best single and double ooll in the University," and doubtless could appreciate the fine old drinking song—

"In potu primo purgatur guttur a limo;
Gaudia sunt nobis solennia quum bibo his;
Nil valeant vina nisi sit potatio trina;
Cumque quater poto tunc lator pectore toto;
Ad quintum potum mens labitur in paradysum;
Sextus vult potus ut nemo sit mihi notus;
Potu septeno frons efficitur sine freno;
Octavo potu sum debilis et sine motu;
Nono tractatur ut corpus sepeliatur."

Lord Eldon has recorded in his anecdote book how he saw a Doctor of Divinity striving to make his way to Brasenose through Radcliffe Square; "he had reached the Library, a rotunda then without railings, and, unable to support himself save by keeping one hand on the building, he continued walking round and round till rescued by a friend." It was no new feature in the character of an Oxford Doctor. When the Spanish ambassador visited the University in the time of James I., "I shall not tell you," says a letter-writer of the time, "how our Doctors pledged healths to the Infanta and Arch-Duchess, and, if any left too big a snuff, Colombo

would cry 'supernagulum' (invert the cup on the nail, so that if a drop remains it would be detected). But the dons of the eighteenth century far exceeded their predecessors in the regularity as well as depth of their potations. The immense punch-bowl which Sir Watkin Wynn bequeathed to Jesus College, was the most fitting gift for the time. "I did not leave off drinking wine because I could not bear it," said Dr. Johnson. "I have drunk off three bottles of port without being the worse for it. University College has witnessed this." "Were the Colleges ever to be reformed," wrote Southey, soon after his entrance, "and reform will not come before it is wanted, I would have a little more of the old discipline kept up. Temperance is much needed; the waters of Helicon are far too much polluted by the wine of Bacchus ever to produce any effect." "Oxford," wrote Crosse to his mother at the very beginning of the present century, "is a perfect hell upon earth. I often saw my tutor carried off, perfectly intoxicated; what chance is there for an unfortunate lad just come from school, with no one to watch and care for him—no guide?"

"The undergraduates," says Lord Eldon, "were no better." At Corpus Christi were drinking cups and glasses, which, from their shape, were called ox-eyes. "Pol, me ox-eye-distis, amici," punned a young tippler as he was being helped to bed. Kegs of brandy and other cordials crowded Christ Church meadow when the ice was frozen for skating. John Scott—as he was then termed—broke through into the ditch, and, on scrambling out, a brandy-vendor recommended him "something warm." "None of your brandy for that wet young man," cried Lord Grantley's son as he swept past, "he never drinks but when he's dry." Even those who detested excesses succumbed to the tone of the place. Abbot, indeed, the future Lord Tenterden, could summon up enough courage to decline wine parties, but few were so resolute. "I always hated wine," confessed Crosse, "but had not the moral courage to resist joining in the parties which were made up by my companions." But the drinking of the time of which Crosse spoke was trivial when compared with the drinking that was passing slowly away. Of Lord Lovelace, the Principal of his Hall could report that "he never knew him sober but twelve hours, and that he used to drink every morning a quart of brandy, or its equivalent, to his own share."

The results of this debauchery it was easy to foresee. Lord Cornbury, fresh from Christ Church, dies of "hard drinking, particularly taking hot spirits of a morning;" Dr. Inett's son "being drinking with three others, after drinking ale for some time, they concluded to drink brandy on it, on

which they fell asleep, and awaking, found Inett quite dead." Nor were these deaths confined to the junior members of the University. Hearne records the death of Whiteside, the keeper of the Ashmolean, from drinking "a pretty deal of bad small beer at Corpus," and the account of the end of the Savilian Professor of Astronomy must be left to tell its own tale—"that which immediately contributed to his death was drinking late on Saturday night, at his own house, where he entertained, with wine and punch, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Thomas Gifford, and some others."

We pass easily from this subject to a few notices of the Taverns and Ale-houses of the time. It is curious to remark the difference between the manners of the last and present century in this particular. The tavern was the favourite resort of the senior as well as the junior members of the University. St. John's sent its Fellows forth at eve—as we learn from their enemy, Amherst—to drink their bottle at the neighbouring ale-house; we have seen the All Souls' men congregating at the Three Tuns; Warton "was fond of drinking his ale and smoking his pipe with persons of mean rank and condition." By the younger scholars it was even more frequented. The poor battler, who dared not enter the more refined and dearer coffee-house, left his masters to their punch, and turned away to his pipe and ale at "Juniper's Magpie or Town Hall." Dr. Newton laments the growing inclination to "go every evening to a public house, become mighty to mingle strong drink, and suffer the love of it to steal upon them." But the rebuke is one-sided; strong drink could be mingled in common rooms as well as taverns, but the ale-house gave the poor scholar, in addition to its liquors, the precious joys of light, fire, and society; and, recalling the lines of Warton, in his Panegyric, we may, perhaps, see beneath their irony some traces of the "home-like" feeling with which the ale-house was regarded by the half-starved student or the weary servitor:—

"To pot-house I repair, the sacred haunt
Where, Ale, thy votaries, in full resort,
Hold rites nocturnal. In capacious chair,
Of monumental oak and antique mould,
I place
My gladsome limbs, while, in repeated round,
Returns replenished the successive cup,
And the brisk fire conspires to general joy;
While, haply, to relieve the lingering hours
In innocent delight, amusive Put,
On smooth-joint stool, in emblematic play,
The vain vicissitudes of fortune shows;
Nor reckoning, name tremendous, me disturbs,
Nor called for chills my breast with sudden fear,
While on the wonted door, expressive mark,
The frequent penny stands described to view
In snowy characters and graceful row."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VI.—NEW SERIES.

WHAT were the amusements of Oxford men during the last century? That these constituted no unimportant part of their social life, the founder of New College had long since shown. "Since," he says in his statutes, "since in the winter time a fire in Hall is afforded for the Fellows, then let the Scholars and Fellows be allowed after dinner or supper time to enjoy a becoming leisure for recreation's sake in Hall in ballad-singing (cantilenis) or other seemly amusement, and somewhat more gravely to peruse poems, histories, and the wonders of the world, with all other things that befit their clerical position." And how long these amusements in Hall survived we can see from the account which Wood gives us of some in which he himself bore a part at Merton. "Christmas appearing there were fires of charcoal made in the common Hall on All Saints' Eve, All Saints' Day and night, on the holydays, and their nights and eves between that time and Christmas Day. Then on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and holydays and their nights, Candlemas Day and night. At all these fires every night, which began to be made a little after five of the clock, the senior undergraduate would bring into the Hall the junior or freshmen between that time and six of the clock, and there make them sit down on a forme in the middle of the Hall, joining to the declaiming desk, which done, every one in order was to speak some pretty apothegm, or make some jest or bull, or speak some eloquent nonsense to make the company laugh. But if any of the freshmen came off dull or not cleverly, some of the forward or pragmatICAL seniors would 'tuck' them, that is, set the nail of the thumb to their chin just under the lipp, and by the help of their other

fingers under the chin they would give him a mark which sometimes would produce blood. On Candlemas Day or before (according as Shrove Tuesday fell out) every freshman had warning given him to provide his speech to be spoken in the public Hall before the undergraduates and servants on Shrove Tuesday night that followed, being always the time for the observation of the ceremony. The fire being made in the Common Hall before five of the clock at night, the Fellowes would go to supper before six, and, making an end sooner than at other times, they left the Hall to the libertie of the undergraduates, but with an admonition from one of the fellowes (who was the principal of the undergraduates and postmasters) that all things should be carried in good order. While they were at supper in the Hall, the cook was making the lesser of the brass pots full of cawdle at the freshman's charge, which, after the Hall was free from the fellowes, was brought up and set before the fire in the said room. Afterwards every freshman according to his seniority was to pluck off his gown and band, and if possible make himself look like a scoundrel. This done, they were conducted each after the other to the high table and there made to stand on a forme placed thereon, from whence they are to speak their speech with an audible voice to the company, which if well done the person that spoke it was to have a cup of cawdle and no salted drinke; if indifferently, some cawdle and some salted drinke; but if dull, nothing was given to him but salted drinke, or salt put in college beere, with tucks to boot. Afterwards, when they were to be admitted into the fraternity, the senior cook was to administer to them an oath over an old shoe, part

of which runs thus, 'Item tu jurabis quod 'Penniless Bench' non visitabis.' After which spoken with gravity the freshman kist the shoe, put on his gowne and band, and took his place among the seniors.' Doubtless though most of these jocular observances were swept away during the reign of the Puritans, yet—as Warton notes on this very passage—customs bearing a very near resemblance to this were still kept up in the eighteenth century. But their chief amusement seems to have lain without the college walls. The times were long past since the scholars amused themselves in Bellocmonte (Beaumont) the fields of which were portioned out to the different degrees. We have seen them loitering their mornings at the coffee-house, or taking an early tankard at the tavern; one of the especial enjoyments of the afternoon seems to have been boating. Southey's favourite diversion was a pull with his friend Wynn upon the Isis. "There were but two things I learnt in Oxford," he could say in after life, "to row and to swim." "So," sings our own Hurdis—

"So on thy banks, too, Isis have I strayed
A tasselled Student, witness you who shared
My morning walk, my ramble at high noon,
My evening voyage, an unskilful sail,
To Godstow bound, or some inferior port,
For strawberries and cream. What have we found
In life's austerer hours delectable
As the long day so loitered?"

But it seems that that age was not exempt from the accidents that have so often thrown a gloom over the amusement in our own day, for we find continually announcements of a similar character with the following, from the *Oxford Journal* of 1776:—"April 8th—As Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Bullock, and Mr. Street, of Merton College, were sailing on the river near Kennington, their boat was upset by a sudden gust of wind, when the two former were unfortunately drowned." Others of the "regulars," like Warton (and, as we have seen above, Hurdis), preferred the "constitutional" up Headington Hill, or a "saunter on the banks of his favourite Cherwell," or the enjoyment of the frequent concerts at the new Music-room. But the bulk of Oxford men sought for amusements of a less refined character. They had no literature to amuse them; indeed, no taste for it seems to have existed. "Few or none of the Oxford undergraduates, with whom parity of standing threw me into collision at my first outset, knew anything at all of English literature," says De Quincey; "the *Spectator* seemed to me the only book of a classical rank which they had read, and even this less for its inimitable delicacy, humour, and

refined pleasantry in dealing with manners and characters, than for its insipid and meagre essays, ethical or critical," which might serve them for translations and exercises. Rougher diversions were provided for these. The conduit now stood on the site of the old bull-ring, but we see them with doffed coat and bob-wig, "cooking" at the pit in Holywell, skittle-playing at Wolvercote and Godstow, carousing at Wallingford or Abingdon, or gambling at home. The practice was not confined to the juniors—a Terres Filius could shake a dice-box in the Theatre at the President of St. John's, and salute him, as he entered, with "Jacta est alea—seven's the main, Doctor." Practical jokes and still more daring exploits relieved the monotony of the fast man's existence. It is amusing to find a grave Lord Chancellor telling us of the riotous deeds of plain Mr. Scott. An invalid grumbled that the view from his window down the High-street was intercepted by a tree in All Saints' churchyard. His young associates determined to relieve him. "One night," says Lord Eldon, "when the moon was under a cloud, we set his servant to cut down the tree stationing ourselves to watch. He was long about it, the moon began to appear, and we were in a great fright, and so got over the wall to see what he was about. He was a Yorkshireman, and 'The seg winna wag'—the saw won't move—was all that we could get from him. So we had to help him, down came the tree, and off we scampered. Next day came out handbills and proclamations from the Mayor and magistrates, but none peached, and Nourse said it was the most glorious crime that had ever been perpetrated in favour of a patient." "Bucks and bloods" cooked their newly-laced hats as they whirled along from Blagrove's stables to Campsfield, nodded to laughing toasts on the race-course at Woodstock, pic-nic'd at Enstone wells, or dined "on mutton chops and scanty wine" at Dorchester.

The smart, however, despised excursions so trivial as these. Tired of billiards, runs with Capt. Bertie's pack, and the bowling-green, he is fluttering day after day at Bath, or plunging down, "amid a crowd of academics," at Astrop. About a hundred years before, a young doctor, just fresh from Oxford, "riding towards Brackley, to a patient, his way led him through Astrop, where he observed the stones in the little rill were discoloured of a kind of Crocus-Martis colour; thought he, this may be an indication of iron; he gets galls, and puts some of the powder into the water, and immediately it turned blackish; there, said he, 'I'll not send my patients now so far as Tunbridge'" (Aubrey). His observa-

tion and acuteness made Willis's fortune, and raised a little village for a time into a fashionable watering place. But London was the great magnet that attracted the majority of the idlers and bucks of the time. There is no one to be found in Tom Lowngeit's room, the ordinary sporting-room, with its prints of horses and dogs, its hat and whip on one hook, and pair of boots on another, its sole library the Sportsman's Calendar and Gibson's Treatise on Horses. The room is empty, for Tom, with Dick Riot, and a few choice spirits, are on their way to town, and a smart rider Dick makes, in his long blue riding coat, with plate buttons, and leathern belt girding his waist.

The Oxford man in London is the butt of all the wits of his time. They are never weary of ridiculing his awkward imitation of a man of the town. He "transfers to playhouse, park, and tavern the lounging air that passes for genteel in an Oxford Coffee-house," but he misses the genuine careless loll and easy saunter of the town-bred coxcomb. He is the darling of hotel keepers, for he never dines or sups out of the house, and eats and drinks and pays like a lord. "Ha, Jack, is it you," shouts one to a chum whom he meets in Pell-Mell; "how long do you stay?" "Ten guineas," is the reply, "if you come to Venables after the play you'll find Tom Latin, Bob Classic, and two or three more." "So! your servant," rejoins his friend, "for I am off to meet the finest girl upon town in the green boxes." They haunt the theatre with the Templar, a kindred soul with their own, and perhaps just transferred from their set to his present position; the briefless barrister sauntering from tavern to tavern "in silk gown and purple slippers," or hurrying from Nandos to Covent Garden, to criticise or catcall, and returning to George's to show by his harangue that his depth in the drama is equal to his shallowness in the law. But though their stay in London is a round of diversion, its sphere is limited to the play, the gaming house, or the bagnio. This is what one scores on a window in an idle fit. "Monday—Rode to town in six hours; saw two last acts of Hamlet; at night with Polly Brown. Tuesday—Saw Harlequin the Sorcerer; at night with Polly again. Wednesday—Saw Macbeth; at night with Sally Parker, Polly engaged. Thursday—Set out for Oxford—a d—d muzzy place." "Tis always Polly with this set of mortals," comments Colman, "till their purse is exhausted, and they are forced to exchange tavern and theatre for small beer and halfpenny commons."

They returned, however, to something better than "small beer and halfpenny commons." The commoner who had been roused to run "with hose ungartered" to reach chapel ere the door was closed, was nowise reluctant

"To repair
To friendly buttry; there on smoking crust
And foaming ale to banquet unrestrained."

"Unlike," adds the poet, "the squeamish sons of modern times," whose practices compelled Dr. Newton to fulminate an edict in Hart Hall against the use of tea and coffee, "a fashionable vice which leads only to squandering of money and misspending the morning in jentacular confabulations." And for those who loved more solid potations the Mitre stood open, the tavern of the noted "Captain Jolly, who *pro bono publico* first reduced the price of porter in Oxford from sixpence to fourpence a quart." Draughts of his liquor gave a relish to the supper of tripe, Mother Spreadbury's sausages, or Ben Tyrrel's "threepenny mutton pies." Ben Tyrrel had the good fortune to attract the attention of the wits of the time, and in their verses we can still see the motley company that gathered round his board on Wednesday and Saturday evenings "at seven o'clock."

"For thee the citizen and cit
Their cold-boiled beef and carrots quit;
Grave aldermen, ambitious, share
In Alma Mater's classic fare;
The blooming toasts of Oxford town
Catch the contagion of the gown,
And wish the wonted evening nigh
To 'have a finger in the pie.'"

A time of course came when these joys had to be relinquished, when the "one-curled scratch" was exchanged by the hands of "Baylis, Blenkinsop, or lofty Wise," the noted peruke makers of the time, for the "snowy pomp" of the grizzle wig, and fop and regular alike sobered down into Dons. But this stage of their history we must reserve for future notice, when in our account of Oxford's educational position we shall be enabled to paint in detail the life of a college Fellow. For the present, however, our sketches of Oxford university society must cease here, but should we be furnished with any additional information we shall not hesitate to resume a subject whose treatment we hope may have furnished some little information as well as entertainment to our readers.

10

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VII.—NEW SERIES.

BEFORE commencing the series of papers in which we shall endeavour to illustrate the political life of Oxford in the Last Century, we may, perhaps, venture, for the sake of variety, to interpose a passing account of the transactions, as far as they can be gleaned from the newspapers, of the period from 1774 to 1777. It is impossible in an undertaking of this kind to pursue our civic history in strict chronological order; deficiency of information will necessarily create gaps here and there in our design. But this apparent inconsequence may probably give us a better notion of our subject than the most perfect regularity. The habitual associates of a man often know less of his character than one who meets him at odd moments, and chats with him at irregular intervals. And our desire of seeing this Oxford in the Last Century—not so much in its daily events and weekly details, as in its ordinary life and character—will probably find its fullest gratification in the somewhat irregular plan which we propose to adopt.

Our information—as we have said—must be gleaned from the newspapers of the day. The *Oxford Journal* was probably a superior specimen of the provincial press. It was the lion's mouth, as the *Spectator* would have said, into which members of the University poured lucubrations which furnish even to the reader of to-day no little amusement. Warton did not disdain to turn from odes and antiquarian research to immortalize Ben Tyrrel's mutton pies, or to parody Gray's *Elegy*. Wits penned from the coffee-house for Jackson's insertion sparkling little ditties on Miss Brickenden or Miss Polly Foote. Old Lochard, the newsman, who, bell in hand, hawked the *Journal* through the streets, owed to his college patrons not only the "antiquated cane" and "rusty grizzle wig," which they had thrown by after ten years' service, or the tankard at buttery hatch in return for "quick despatches;" but the merry rhymes that every Christmas drew a *douceur* from the tradesman, a "slice of sirloin and cup of October" from the squire, or a dram from "Mother Baggs." To them we owe the amusing detail of the subjects of the day,—

Each vast event our varied page supplies,
The fall of princes, and the rise of pies;
Patriots and squires learn here with little cost
Or when a kingdom or a match is lost;
Both sexes here approved receipts peruse,
Hence belles may clean their teeth or beaux their shoes:
From us informed Britannia's farmers tell
How Louisburgh by British thunders fell;
'Tis we that sound to all the Trump of Fame,
And babes lisp Amherst's and Boscawen's name,—
All the four quarters of the globe conspire
Our news to fill, and raise your glory higher.

But spite of this conspiracy of the four quarters of the globe, the news is hardly what the pampered appetites of the present day would call "full." Let us turn to a newspaper of the period which we have selected. The little poems and epigrams have disappeared. Their young authors have graduated and donned their grizzle-wigs, and have left no successors behind them. The little weekly essays which we find in the *Journal* for 1755 have ceased, and 'tis only occasionally that a passing jest reminds us of "Will Whimsey." Here, however, in the paper which we open we are entertained with an epistle from "Old Squaretoes." He is bitter on the enormous head-dresses of the day; his daughter "though in the morning but five feet one inch high, yet, by raising herself fifteen inches at top and four at bottom, she grows to the amazing height of six feet eight by four in the afternoon." A series of ludicrous adventures follow. A shower overtakes the ladies in their promenade, they run for shelter to a sentinel's box, "and forgetting the preposterous height of their heads, struck them against the top of the box with such violence that both fell backwards, kicked up their heels, and threw down my wife, whose pyramid flew off and was run away with by a tailor's apprentice." The lesson is in vain; Old Squaretoes has hardly concluded his moralising when "Mr. Toupee entered the room with three bandboxes, each of the size of a child's coffin," and the ladies appear "with heads four inches higher than the last." A fire, however, destroys these new erections, the ladies are left doctoring their scorched faces, and with a proposal for a fire-insurance of

head-dresses, the lively little extravaganza concludes.

We turn to the news. Foreign politics are summed up in a few paragraphs. "Rumours of a rupture between Spain and Portugal;" "talk of a grand alliance which will greatly alarm the public." The American war is in progress, and engagements, privateering, and naval orders are spun out into a couple of meagre columns. The fashionable intelligence is divided between the turf and the elopements and scandal of ton. Justice is satisfied by an account of the execution of a brace of culprits. "An abstract of the new Act for the relief of insolvent debtors" fills up the remaining space. Only the Oxford news is left. It is exactly four paragraphs. We learn that "the Rev. John Williams" has received a dispensation to hold a couple of livings at once; the marriage of "the Rev. Thomas Robinson, head master of Magdalen College School, to Miss Rebecca, daughter of Mr. James Fletcher, of this place, bookseller," is succeeded by the death of the Rector of Oddington; and the news ends with an advertisement from some itinerant vendor of "likenesses."

To those, however, who would gain a clearer view of the social and material condition of the period, the advertisements furnish the widest field for observation. The time had not yet arrived when "advertisements" had become a regular item in trade expenses, and 'tis amusing to see the ingenious devices to which advertisers resorted to justify their appearance before the public. The favourite means were a feigned dispute between two of a trade; sometimes a pretended rumour "to my prejudice" served the turn, or the setting up of an apprentice, as a rival, was the signal for recriminatory advertisements. Notices of enclosure grow more and more frequent, and prominent among them we see the enclosure of Campsfield, that open ground between Oxford and Woodstock, which we have noticed before as a favourite drive for the Oxford bucks and bloods. We can see the traces of that great advance of agriculture which began with the accession of George III., and which was so soon to change for the better the habits of our rural gentry. "Twenty-five Inclosure Acts only had passed," says Massey, "up to the accession of George II.; during his reign of 33 years, they had increased by 182. From 1760 (the accession of the third George) to 1774—the beginning of our present period—upwards of 700 Inclosure Acts were obtained;" while the passing of 452 Turnpike Acts enormously facilitated the communications of the country. In the rural districts, as swamps and wastes disappeared, the higher classes began to imbibe that love of the

country which is, at this day, the most creditable characteristic of an English country gentleman. In the towns, as we shall afterwards have occasion to see in greater detail, the sudden accumulation of wealth produced an increased refinement in manners, which, in its turn, became the origin of those great local improvements which marked the period of which we are speaking. But, great as this progress was, to those who view this time from our point of view rather than from its own, it must necessarily seem a period of social barbarism. The police of the kingdom was, with the exception of the few Bow-street runners, disorganised and ineffective. Riotous young aristocrats sallied forth to commit the grossest insults on either sex without fear of the superannuated "Jarvies." Highwaymen robbed not only on the outskirts but in the very squares of the metropolis, in broad daylight. Runaway soldiers, with swords they did not scruple to use, infested the highways. "It is noticeable," says a paragraph in one of the *Oxford Journals*, "that most robberies are wrought by persons with weapons, to be accounted for by the great number of discharged soldiers who took to the trade." Men of the highest rank were not exempt from these attacks. The robbery of Lord Percival was, as we shall soon see, one of Dumas' most notable exploits, and in the news for March 12, 1774, we find so illustrative an account that we insert it at length:—"Lord Stanley and his brother, coming in a postchaise-and-four from Chelsea to town, were stooped by four footpads, two of whom seized the horses, and put pistols to the postilion's breast, the other two went on each side the carriage, and, on presenting their pistols, were resisted by the Hon. Mr. Stanley, whom one of the fellows fired at, on which Lord Stanley seized the man on his side by the arm, and wounded him at the back of the head with a scimitar. The two ruffians at the head of the horses then went to their comrades' assistance, when, the postilion driving furiously on, the nobleman and his brother escaped unhurt, though one of the villains fired a second pistol." The neighbourhood of Oxford was haunted by similar marauders. Farmer Dover, of Botley, is knocked down, on his way home from market, by a couple of footpads, near Bulstrode-bridge, and only rescued by a chance arrival (March, 1775). A couple of highwaymen infest the country between Woodstock and Glympton, and count among their many exploits "the robbery of two young gentlemen of the University, near Campsfield, this side Woodstock." In November, 1776, three coaches are robbed in the immediate vicinity; one, indeed, near the Radcliffe Infirmary. The Oxford news for

December 7, 1776, is enlivened by the following paragraph :—"On Thursday morning, between five and six o'clock, the Bath coach, in which were three passengers, was robbed in going up the hill on the other side of Botley, about a mile and a-half from this city, by a single highwayman, well mounted, who took from Mr. Jonas, the celebrated conjuror, his watch and about four guineas." 'Tis more than probable that either the suddenness of the demand, or the bitter imprecations of the highwayman, might so alarm Mr. Jonas as totally to deprive him of his celebrated art of "conveyance," or we can scarcely suppose he would have suffered the robber to pocket his watch or money, and carry it off.

It is not the least peculiar feature of the times that these deeds of pillage, attended as they often were with a combination of cowardice and cruelty which it is impossible now to regard with aught but disgust, seem at the time to have been looked upon with an especial leniency and favour. Highwaymen were the heroes of the day. There was a something, the ladies would argue, about the dark muffled figure, whose horse came splashing up to the toiling night-coach, in contemptuous defiance of the shivering guard and his lumbering blunderbuss, that severed him from the vulgar pilferer of the Old Bailey. And the highwaymen, here and there, seem to have appreciated and returned the sympathy of the fairer sex. Rings and jewels were often ransomed by a kiss, and 'twas reported of Dumas that, after capturing a whole coachful of ladies, he was satisfied with dancing a coranto with each in turn upon the green. The story of this prince of highwaymen is connected with our especial subject by his execution at Oxford, on Monday, March, 23, 1761. By birth the son of a corkcutter, in Eastcheap, his spirit scorned the drudgery of common toil; he sought and found company more to his taste, was soon enrolled among "the Killers of Care, the Silenian Sons of Nimrod, A.B.C.darians, Snitchers, Choice Spirits, Ubiquarians," and every other low club of the town, and told his story, sang his song, and drank his bottle with the best of them. But debauchery and extravagance told fast upon his purse, and, to support his mistresses, young Isaac Darkins was driven to "the road." His assumed name of Dumas soon became the terror of travellers. He was sung in Seven Dials, and famed even in aristocratic boudoirs. But fame could not protect him from mishap. At Chelmsford, in 1758, we find him sentenced to death for the robbery of Capt. Cockburn, but his youth gained him a reprieve, and his sentence was finally commuted to transportation for fourteen years. By revealing a plan of escape

formed by his fellow transports, in short, by peaching, our hero obtained a pardon on condition of serving as a soldier in the Island of Antigua, and, in spite of several frustrated attempts at escape, he was put on board ship, and conveyed thither. But Dumas's destiny was not thus to be evaded. He availed himself of the first opportunity of desertion to lie in hiding on board a merchant vessel, and, eluding the strict search which was made, in the disguise of a sailor, soon found himself once more in England. His exploits in mid and west England, by their daring and ingenuity, attracted on him such inconvenient attention from the officers of justice, that he was forced to seek for safety by entering as a midshipman on board the Royal George. While in harbour, however, a leave of absence enabled him again to gratify his tastes, and a series of successful encounters was crowned by his robbery of Lord Percival. For this he was soon brought to trial, but an ingenious defence, and the defective proof of identity, procured him an acquittal, and he was again free "to set off to London in a postchaise." While in gaol, his cell had been visited by every lady of fashion, and his adventures furnished the tea-table chat of the town. They were charmed with the elegance of his person, the neatness of his dress, and the gaiety with which he enlivened his prison. But the sympathy of the sex was soon to prove fatal to him. He had directed letters to some of his female friends from an inn whose owner was postmaster of the district, and his abode thus discovered, a robbery near Nettlebed lodged him in Oxford gaol. He maintained his nonchalance to the end, played "Macheath" in the prison, and threw himself off at the gallows without troubling the executioner. His age was but twenty-one at his death, and his booty already amounted to £600. A striking mark of popular sympathy followed his end. He had declared that he feared—not death—but the thought of being anatomized, and, at his execution, a large body of bargemen surrounded the scaffold, and carried off his body in triumph to the next parish church, "where," says the account in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, from which this is condensed, "while some rang the bells, others opened the belly, filled it with quicklime, and then buried the body."

As interesting a culprit to the higher classes in Oxford was Le Maitre, a French master of tambour and similar accomplishments, who, in 1776, gained considerable notoriety by pillaging the Ashmolean Museum of a great number of antiquities, medals, &c., to the amount of £100. Being arrested at Dublin, he was sentenced, at the Oxford assizes, to five years' hard labour, and is next heard of as the

originator of a nearly-successful attempt at escape, which throws light on the condition of the Oxford prisons of the time. With the aid of four, who were confined in the same cell, the wall was undermined by a few faggot-sticks and an holdfast taken from the pump, the hole was covered with a few mats, and confederates waited without to file their fetters. The plan was discovered on the very eve of its completion, but justice was not always so fortunate. In the autumn of the previous year two women had succeeded in cutting through the bars of their window, and escaped into the road which ran beside; and in 1775 a prisoner, himself under sentence for assisting a culprit to break prison, was killed by a fall in his attempt to escape.

Such attempts, indeed, were common in every prison in the kingdom. The dilapidated condition of the buildings offered every temptation. And within was every means of plotting and facilitating an escape. The interior of a prison of that time, whether we trust the statements of the novelist or the philanthropist, was nothing short of a hell upon earth. The vilest and most profligate were left free to reduce the less experienced criminals to their own degradation. Criminals herded together in noisome cells, where the most foul crimes were committed by the gaolers, who were themselves scarce better than the felons they guarded. These, treated like beasts, turned like beasts upon their keepers. Prisons were sometimes broken open by a revolt from within. The terrible Newgate riot of 1775 needed the presence of troops to quell it. The same policy exhibited itself in those fearful penal laws which were in their full vigour at this period. Every assize saw the punishment of death recorded for crimes the most unequal in their nature, for the villain who had taken his benefactor's life, and the bankrupt who had fraudulently concealed his goods. The same want of equity distinguished the punishments of the pillory. "All secondary offences, from crimes too abominable to name down to libels and breaches of the peace, were punished by the pillory," says Mr. Massey. But the occasions of its use in Oxford during the latter part of this century seem to have been rare; indeed, only one is recorded in the public prints,—the punishment of William Clark, for keeping a house of ill-fame, November, 1774. Men still living can remember the last instance of its exercise in, we believe, 1810, when one Tubbs stood in the pillory for perjury. The pillory seems to have been placed near the Cross Inn, in Northgate or Cornmarket-street. Another, which at a

very distant period stood in company with a cross, gallows, and stocks at the corner of Magdalen Grove, looking up Holywell, recalls to us the time when the north side of that street stood alone, when the south side and Long Wall were as yet but the city ditch, and the manor, with its judicial rights, beyond the wall were the property of Bogo de Clare. But, if the gallows and pillory were more plentiful in the Middle Ages, the culprit then possessed a privilege which civilization has long robbed him of—the right of sanctuary. Behind All Saints' churchyard stood Broadgate Hall, where, in 1463, Mr. Hill, one of the proctors, coming to seize "one J. Harry, a tailor, of Oxford, who had stabbed a man, on information that it was a place privileged by the Pope, and claim laid by the Master and Convent of St. John's Hospital, he, on some small security, found the benefit of the place, and was dismissed." The privilege in this case seems to have fallen into desuetude about 1530. In Wood's time, "the vestiges of a sanctuary, near St. Edward's church, did not long ago remain in a tradesman's ground abutting down from the High-street to Tresham's-lane." A sanctuary of greater interest will, in our next number, introduce us to the more especial consideration of the civic affairs of Oxford in the period which we are treating.

Minor offences were visited with punishments which men still living can remember—the stocks on the Butter-bench, or a whipping at the cart's tail. The last was a practice as useless as it was disgusting, for, as we have learned from one who had himself seen this punishment inflicted, "though dragged the whole length of the Cornmarket and back again, the culprits scarce ever received more than one effective stroke, in consequence of the throng and pressure of the crowd around." But one consequence of the severity of the penal code was the jurisdiction which the populace themselves exercised. Pickpockets, taken in the fact, seldom made their appearance at Sessions; they were usually dragged to the nearest pond or pump, and ducked while any sign of life remained. The same rude justice, as many must remember, was extended to those whose religious tenets offended the sovereign mob. Young thieves and minor offenders were usually let off with a thrashing. But enough withal remained to make the office of Recorder no sinecure. In noticing the resignation of this office in the year 1776, by "Thomas Francis Wenman, Esq.," and the unanimous election of "John Skinner, Esq., of Little Milton, one of the Justices of the Principality of Wales," we must conclude this, we confess, somewhat miscellaneous paper.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. VIII.—NEW SERIES.

THE Sanctuary to which we referred at the conclusion of our last number was the Sanctuary at East Gate. The friars of the order of the Holy Trinity for the Redemption of Captives, who had been settled in the little chapel by its side, by the patronage of Edmund, son of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, were cut off to a man in the pestilence of 1351, and the chapel eventually lapsed to the city. Here the new Mayor who, by the charter of Henry III., claimed, with the chief magistrate of London, the honour of a formal presentation to the Barons of the Exchequer for confirmation in his new office, was accustomed on his return over the long and rude "Petty Pont," which has given place to the present Magdalen bridge, to stop and return thanks to God for his safe return, leaving, at the same time, an alms on the altar upon which a little taper or lamp burnt night and day. On quitting the chapel the Mayor was received by the townsmen, assembled in their trades, and "conducted into the city with great huzzaing and rejoicings."

In the elections for 1774, Mr. Samuel Culley was chosen Mayor; Mr. Thomas Jones and Mr. Richard Hayes, Chamberlains of the city. The next year presents us with a name still honoured in its connection with civic offices, in the unanimous election of "Mr. William Thorpe, junior, assistant of the city," to the Mayoralty, while Mr. William Fidler and Mr. Richard Weston were appointed bailiffs. The mention of a family which still remains to us cannot fail to recall some of those which have long perished and decayed. The Chillingworths have gone, yet the most acute of all our philosophers was the son of a Mayor of Oxford. Sir William D'Avenant reminds us that it was during the mayoralty of his father, that Shakespear used to stop at the Crown, on his way to Stratford, but the very name has died out of Oxford now. Here and there indeed local denominations recall the memory of old civic families passed away. Yet of the thousands who speak of Peckwater Quad, how many remember that it is so called from occupying the site of the old house of Radulph Peckwether,

one of an illustrious line, who was Provost or chief magistrate of Oxford in the reign of Henry III. And the gradual change of names is already obliterating even these slight vestiges. Pembroke Street has even recently superseded the old "Penny-farthing" Street, the street that commemorated the name of the great burgher-family, the Penyverthings, of whom one was Provost in Henry the Third's time. The name of a tavern has driven from Ship Street the title of Burewald's Lane, which it owed to the wealthy family which ended in Dionysia Burewald, the foundress of a chauntry in St. Michael's Church, for the souls of those of her name, "especially of Gilbert and Radulph, men of great possessions in Oxford." These, however, had themselves superseded the designation which it had before derived from the Dewys, a family of early note in Oxford history, and whose name seems to have lingered on to our own times. The same transmutations were the fate of other streets; the lane from "Bocardo to New Inn Hall" was Bedford Lane, from burgesses of that name in the first Edward's time—and then Adynton's Lane, from that Stephen Adynton, who was seven times Mayor at a much later period. But not seldom lane and name have perished together. Improvements have banished Kepeharme's Lane, which ran from Fish Street (St. Aldate's) into the Butcher-row, and with it all memory of the great family that, like the Segrims, whose tenements were blotted out by Wolsey's Hospital, held civic offices in Oxford before the Conquest, and the wife of one of whose descendants, Alice, had to offer to King John one hundred mares and two palfreys "for liberty to re-marry."

Mr. Edward Lock was the Mayor for 1776; the Chamberlains being Mr. William Hyde and Mr. William Jones. The elections of the old Corporations were scenes of bribery and riot. The poor freeman thought himself entitled to his half-guinea and bottle of gin. In A. Wood's time, we find him recording, "Anthony Hall, vintner, chosen Mayor, at which some young scholars and servitors being present, heard his speech of thanks out of the balcony, viz, that he thanked them for their choice

of him—that he could neither speak French or Spanish, but if they would walk to the Bear they should find that he could speak English, meaning give them English ale and beer.” At this date, however (1679) the powers of the office were wielded with a severity which would astonish the burgesses of the present day. In recording the Mayoralty of Robert Pauling, draper, Wood observes, “whereas all Mayors in memory of man used to be mealy-mouthed and fearful of executing their office for fear of losing trade, this person is not, but walks in the night to take townsmen in tippling houses, prohibits coffee to be sold on Sundays, which Dr. Nicholas, Vice-Chancellor, prohibited till after evening prayers, viz., till five o’clock.” But spite of these extensive powers and vexatious interferences, the Mayor seems to have had little control over the riotous inclinations of his townsmen. Indeed, election-time was particularly selected for the noisiest demonstrations. The election of Anthony Hall, which we have noticed above, was the signal for a prolonged “Town and Gown,” between the servitors and the populace, which continued amid breakages of arms and heads for the space of a week, till appeased by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors. Here and there too, the latent opposition, which always existed towards the High Church Tory Corporation, manifested itself in acts of violence. Not ten years after the Revolution of 1688, we find the Puritan, or Whig party, carrying the Townclerkship against the united powers of the Earl of Abingdon and the Corporation, and celebrating their victory with bonfires and “ringing of bells all night.” And at the elections of the same year the mob wandered about the city, breaking the windows of the officers of the corporation. “These,” says Wood, “are the fanatical or factious party, and shew what they will do when they are in authority.”

We may be pardoned for wearying our readers with details so distant and seemingly unimportant as these, when it is considered that these revolts of the populace were in fact protests, very noisy protests, against the system of corporate government, or misgovernment, which was then gradually approaching that uncontested supremacy which it enjoyed in the eighteenth century. Without dwelling on the minute features of the system which the Municipal Reform Act swept once and for ever away—on the narrow suffrages, the disgraceful bribery, the close family patronage, which were necessary for its support, it may be well for those who, perhaps not unnaturally irritated by the disagreeables of the system which that reform established, and influenced,

in addition, by that very pardonable prejudice which throws an air of sanctity over all that is past, are now and then driven to a cry of regret for “the old corporation” to consider the pitiful position in which that regime placed the city with respect to the great noblemen whose possessions surrounded it.

Of these families the first which we find in intimate connexion with the corporate affairs of the city was that of the Berties. In 1682 Wood records the joy of the Tory party at the elevation of their head. “Bonfires made in several parishes in Oxford by the Tory party after supper for joy that the Lord Norris was made Earl of Abingdon, with the ringing of bells. Several colleges had bonfires, All Souls’ especially. About 11 at night they brought a barrel of beer out of the cellar, and drank it in healths on their knees to the Duke of York and Earl of Abingdon out of the buckets which hung up in the hall. They got about twenty of the trained bands of Oxford, who discharged at the drinking of every health. They had wine in plenty from the tavern over the way, guarded by a file of musqueteers, and a drummer that beat round the college quadrangle and at the gate.” The Earl’s Toryism had given him the lord lieutenancy of the county, and in Monmouth’s rebellion, two years later, we find him at the head of the troop of 60 horse which was raised by the University, committing suspected Puritans—amongst others our severe friend Robert Pauling—to the Castle, and training the volunteers in Broken Heyes or Christ Church Meadow. But loyalty so vehement as this was soon destined to be shaken. The Earl was one of the first to welcome William of Orange, and his congratulations were seconded by the University. The Tory meddling however continued still. The contest for Town Clerk in 1694 was decided in favour of Thurston against Slatford, “by the endeavours of the Earl of Abingdon, who got several country gentlemen that were of the house to give votes for the said Thurston. The Commons, enraged at it, spoke vilely of the said Earl and his son, and called them Jacobites. He laid in town that night, and went next day to the Bishop’s lodgings, at Magdalen College, in the company of one or two constables to prevent abuses.” The wrath of the “Commons” the Earl could afford to despise, but the internal opposition which the family influence experienced from the corporation must have been more trying to his patience. In 1731, Hearne tells us of my Lord’s “driving in a coach from Rycot to put up Mr. Lawrance, the chandler, against Mr. Nibbs, upholsterer,” for the office of Mayor’s assistant; but the drive was in vain, and the Earl had to entertain his

supporters at dinner afterwards with what good humour he might.

By the middle of this century, however, the Rycot was fast being superseded by the Blenheim influence. The great Duke, the rise of whose stately palace had been viewed with such malignant eyes by his Tory neighbours—(Hearne has handed down to us the exultation of the common-room at the news that the fine stones of the new buildings were already cracking with the frost)—was too busy in his intrigues, too miserly in his expenditure, to meddle in the civic elections. Violent Duchess Sarah seems to have confined herself to occasional presents of a buck to the Whig heads. But the eighteenth century was the great era of what Disraeli has called "Venetian" government. The great oligarchic families were straining every nerve to secure a "following" in the corrupt House of Commons. Nobles forced their way into the cabinet by a simple enumeration of the votes at their disposal. Immense sums were lavished on contested elections. Yorkshire grew famous as the insatiable quagmire that engulfed the mortgaged acres of its battling landholders; but simple boroughs proved often as ravenous. The Spencers, who squandered nearly £100,000 on the Northampton election, were only one out of three great families that retired crippled from the contest. Corruption was practised without disguise; indeed one member openly proposed in the House to repeal the Bribery Act. "Arnold Nesbit, Esq.," says a paragraph in one of these *Oxford Journals*, "M.P. for Cricklade, made a present of £10 each to the voters in his interest at the last election, and entertained them with a genteel dinner." At the Hindon contest, "a man, supposed to be a clergyman, in a fantastic female habit, called 'the dancing Punch,' presents each voter with five guineas, and distributes larger sums to all that call at his inn. Worcester saw its members elected, unseated, re-elected and unseated again for the most flagrant bribery, yet a third election secured them in their seats.

The Marlboroughs, like their fellows, aspired to be boroughmongers. They had already gained a footing in the county, they nominated the two members for their borough of Woodstock, and an opportunity at length arrived for securing one of the seats for Oxford. The borough representation had, at this time, fallen practically into the hands of the corporations. The vilest means, bribery, drink, abused influence, were employed to secure the comparatively small body of freemen, who alone possessed the right of suffrage. Should these fail, the corporation could increase its power by a new

charter, such as, in 1774, was granted to Abingdon. It was welcomed with a Mayor's feast, drink was distributed to the populace, bonfires kindled in the Market-place, and the bells set ringing. But the grant was a mere election dodge. The roll of electors was in the hands of overseers, who were chosen by two justices, and the appointment of the latter was, by this charter, vested in the corporation. In other words, the list of electors was at its mercy. A creation of "beggar" voters soon followed. "Mr. Bayley and the dissenters" (we suppose political-dissenters) were routed in the choice of Mayor, and the next election saw a nominee of the corporation sent, as their representative, to Parliament.

The corporation of Oxford were encumbered with debts, and saw in the approaching election of 1768 a means of freeing them from their embarrassments. But the offer which they made to their members to return them for the sum of £7,500, ended in a reprimand from the Speaker and a committal to Newgate. During the five days of their confinement, however, it was rumoured that the bargain which had failed with Lee and Staplyton had been successfully concluded with the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Abingdon. The year following saw the city debt of about £6,000 liquidated by the Duke, and (1771) the elevation of Sergeant Nares to the Bench, gave a seat to his brother, Lord Robert Spencer. For the subsequent half-century the city became the mere nomination borough of the Duke and corporation. The honour, however, if honour it were, was not purchased cheaply. Fifty taverns were opened at the Duke's expense, and a collation provided for the corporation, when the debt was satisfied by the sale of the representation. Into these "collations" had the old city feast dwindled, just as the city itself seems to have shrunk into the corporation. A. Wood recalls to us some of these old entertainments, which would seem to have promoted a feeling of fellowship among their partakers. The citizens met in the Town Hall, "marched thence very orderly, in number about 440" (the time was 1669) "down the High-street, with a minister before them, had a sermon in the church of St. Peter-in-the-East, preached by Rob. Field, M.A., born in Grope-lane, St. Mary's parish, and, returning to the Hall again, had a noble entertainment; which done, there was a collection made to bind one or two boys apprentices." This seems to have been the first feast of the kind, though many afterwards are recorded in his pages. Open entertainments, indeed, were everywhere given to the freemen on the eve of elections. At Wootton Bassett, the Mayor presided while two fat oxen, the gift of the members, were

distributed among the electors, and a third was roasted whole for their diversion. Every civic necessity occasioned an appeal to the purses of its representatives. The members for Windsor, in 1774, are "honourably mentioned" for their present of £500 to the corporation, towards defraying the expenses of the new pavement of the town. The Marlborough interest in the county was maintained after the same fashion by a sumptuous ball at Blenheim, "Lord Rob. Spencer and Miss Vernon opening the minuets;" whence the ladies, returning at four in the morning, "in passing through the park, experienced uncommon transport on beholding the glorious appearance of a rising sun;" or, by grosser entertainments to 225 tenants and other farmers, in the greenhouse, at Blenheim, where they were treated with "128 dishes, besides vegetables; 300 bottles of port, 52 of rum, in punch, besides an incalculable quantity of ale and strong beer," which tells well for the heads of the freeholders. Nor were the more indirect means neglected. The members and their patrons were expected to subscribe munificently to local charities and subscriptions, and, amongst other contributors, we find Peshall mentioning Lord Abingdon, "who

then lived in Mr. Hacker's house," as a principal benefactor to the new gallery at St. Peter's-in-the-East.

But the heaviest demands on their charity were occasioned by the extreme destitution which was caused by the severity of the winters of this period and the high war-prices of provisions, wheat being at forty shillings per quarter. The distress was not confined to Oxford. At Westbury the members contributed in large donations, and the corporation of Abingdon granted £50 for the relief of the necessitous poor. Fifty guineas were given by the Duke of Marlborough, in 1776, to be distributed in bread to the poor in general; and twice that amount was subscribed by the members for the city, Lord Robert Spencer and Mr. Bertie, for the relief of the freemen. Similar contributions seem to have been made at every inclement season, accompanied with gratuitous distributions of coal and fuel. The most stringent regulations were at the same time made to enforce the ridiculous statutes against "Forestalling and regrating," and, by an official assize of bread in the winter of 1775, the penny loaf (wheaten) was fixed at 9oz. 4dr., while the price of the wheaten quartern loaf was settled at 6½d.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. IX.—NEW SERIES.

THE prerogative of the corporation was not solely employed in fixing the assize of bread. We find a curious instance of its exercise in the case of inoculation. The small-pox has, by the discovery of Jenner, been rendered so comparatively innocuous, that we can scarcely realize to ourselves the intense consternation which the mere mention of the scourge produced. The slightest rumour of its presence in any locality was deemed a pernicious libel, and judged worthy of the most authoritative contradiction. The surgeons of Wallingford advertise "their protest against the rumour that it has broken out there." June 17, 1774,— "The minister, churchwardens and overseers of Chipping Norton certify that the small-pox is not in the said town, and that those belonging to it who have had the said disorder were, before they became infectious, removed to the pest-house, and are now quite recovered." The vicar and inhabitants of Watlington certify to the freedom of their parish from the infection. At the same time, the new remedy of inoculation, which Lady Mary Montague had introduced from the East, was viewed in many quarters with disgust and incredulity. Hosts of doctors, some of whom seem to have been little removed from quacks, opened houses for the reception of patients. "Mr. Sampson, of Begbroke, who has attended two thousand without loss, inoculated his third company this season;" Mr. Bristow, of Begbroke, "receives a succession of patients at his house at Jericho, near this city, where they are carried through that disease with the utmost safety by his approved and successful method;" but those in authority, at least, remained unconverted. The prohibition which was fulminated in the year 1774 is too great a curiosity not to be preserved entire:—"Whereas attempts have been made to inoculate persons for the small-pox within the University and City of Oxford, to the great terror of the inhabitants, we, the Vice-Chancellor and Mayor of the said University and City, do hereby will and command that, for the future, no attempt of this kind be made, nor inoculation practised within the said University and City. And likewise we hereby give notice that if any person or

persons shall hereafter inoculate in private houses, or shall let or take into their respective houses patients under inoculation, or shall let or make use of any house within the said University and City to inoculate patients therein, such person or persons offending in any or either of these cases shall be prosecuted as the law directs. Given under our hands, Thos. Fothergill, Vice-Chancellor; Samuel Culley, Mayor." These thunderers, however, seem to have roused a spirit of opposition. "Mr. Sutton, just returned from France," advertises that he "intends to inoculate in Oxford and its neighbourhood this winter, notwithstanding any attempts to impede his practice."

Interferences such as these, absurd as they seem to us, were too much in harmony with the countless other restrictions of the time to seem out of place in the eighteenth century. Sumptuary laws still forbade the use of metal buttons, and ladies were dragged, by common informers, before the Lord Mayor, and fined, for appearing in chintz dresses. The law meddled equally with workman and employer. The one was liable to imprisonment for a "strike;" the other to a heavy penalty for exceeding the wages prescribed by statute. The old and cumbrous machinery of trade-companies, obsolete as it had grown, still retained a lingering vitality. "N. Elliot, Master of the Guilds or Fraternity of Cordwainers," advertises a reward of five pounds to any one who will discover any of the journeymen on strike in May, 1776. A general combination for increase of wages seems to have been formed at this time, for immediately above this advertisement appears another, which gives us the names of the master tailors of the time in Oxford. "Twenty or thirty journeymen tailors" are advertised for by "Thomas Joy, P. Price, Richard West, Fred. Rogers, William Fidler, Thomas Benwell, Wm. Davenport, John Giles, Joseph Harpur, Edward Hitchings." The last of these, a name of future eminence in the city, had but recently (as appears from his first advertisement, October 20, 1775) succeeded to the business of Mr. Herne, and his commencement was almost contemporaneous with that of Mr. Deodatus

Eaton, another well-known name, who, in the succeeding week, advertises that "in conjunction with his brother-in-law, W. Thompson," he has succeeded to his mother's business as a wood and coal merchant.

The Company of Taylors, to which these tradesmen belonged, took the lead among the Oxford guilds. "No less than eight kings, eleven dukes, forty-one earls, with many hundreds of gentlemen of family and fortune," had, it boasted, been admitted as honorary members of the fraternity. In March, 1776, we find thus admitted the Hon. Peregrine Bertie, Sir Warborough D'Aeth, and Francis Brown-sword Bullock, Esq.; while John Walley, Esq., presented the society with a handsome piece of plate. But, great as the guild was, it yielded in antiquity to the shoemakers, though both claimed priority over the glovers and mercers. So, at least, did the Common Council determine, when consulting on the order of the procession which was to welcome King James the Second. "These companies—glovers, cordwainers, taylors, and mercers," says Anthony à Wood, "went on foot. At the end of each company was the master thereof, with his gowne on. Each company went apart by themselves, and had a flag or ensign, containing the arms of the company or corporation painted on them. The Taylors, who were most numerous, had two flaggs, one containing their arms, another"—here the account ends in asterisks. One company seems even at this early date to have slipped into non-entity—the Company of Barbers. These, Pechell tells us, "at their first incorporation, by order of Dr. Northwade, then Vice-Chancellor of the University, agreed that they would yearly keep and maintain a light before our Lady in our chapel in St. Frideswide's church; for the sure continuance of which every man or woman of the same profession, that kept a shop, should pay two pence a quarter, two journeymen a penny, and keep it always burning, under pain of 6s. 8d." This, which continued till the Reformation, was only one of the many lights which testified at once to the opulence and piety of the crafts. In the orders of the glovers (1461) they are bound to find a light in All Hallows' church, in the Trinity chapel, "namely, 8 tapers and 6 torches, to be honestly kept to the praise of the Holy Trinity." All Hallows, or All Saints' church, was the religious centre of the Company of Glovers. In this chapel of the Trinity, on its south side, which had been founded by J. Stodely, a glover, and several times Mayor of this City, in the 14th century, the guild was accustomed to celebrate mass on Trinity Sunday for the good estate of the glovers.

The mass was silenced at the Reformation, but, in another little chapel, on the same side of the church, which John Berry, Mayor of the City, and warden of the company, had erected in the reign of Henry the Eighth, for a mass priest to pray for their welfare, the change of religion, which so soon followed, did not abolish the whole commemoration, but commuted the mass into prayers on the Trinity Monday, immediately before the guild proceeded to the election of its officers, and to this the benefaction of Alderman Southam added a sermon, "which," says Pechall, writing in 1773, "they have now besides prayers." Most, indeed, of the older churches, within the walls, preserved, even to late times, the memories of the trade fraternities. On the south side of All Hallows' church stood the chapel of Our Lady, built by the Cordwainers; and, in the upper window of the south aisle of old St. Martin's, the painting of a pair of tailor's shears remained, in memory of the foundation of a chantry in that church by the craft of tailors, "for a priest, that should pray for their welfare, at a yearly stipend of £3 16s."

Another company which the lapse of time had long since extinguished was the craft of weavers; and it affords a curious instance of the mutations (the whole story of which is itself so curious and entertaining) of locality and trade in Oxford to know that in old times barges came heavily laden up the Cherwell to Parry's Mead, ground now enclosed in the limits of Magdalen College Meadow, where seventy fullers and weavers abode, and twenty-three looms were busily at work. This peculiar segregation—if we may use the term—of a trade was characteristic of the crafts of the middle ages. Not to look abroad to the great towns of mediæval Italy, where this system had its fullest development, we find the relics of this severance of trade from trade long lingering at least in the names of our own streets and localities. "Sched-yard" Street, the present Oriel Lane, preserved in its very title the memory of a time when, as appears from records still preserved, it was solely inhabited by "Parchmenors, exemplars, luminars, and bocbynders," the several divisions of what we should now perhaps roughly call the craft of booksellers and stationers. The same craft seem to have inhabited the street which has passed through the titles of "St. Mildred's, Cheney, Jesus, and Market Street. Drapers' Hall, which stood in the Bailey, near St. Martin's, long commemorated the "Drapery," within whose bounds it was built. Fishmongers' Hall received its name from the company, whose arms were still remaining in its windows in A. Wood's time, and the residence

of whose craftsmen had given to the street in which it stood—the present St. Aldate's—the name of Fish Street. A little bridge on the way to Osney recalled by its appellation of "Bocbynders' Bridge" some settlement of a craft which probably flourished in the vicinity of the great Abbey. The tailors had their shops in the North-east Ward, in St. Michael's parish, whence, on St. John Baptist's eve, they sallied in procession to the sound of musical instruments, trolling out ancient songs in honour of their craft and its patron, and returning after a circuit of the streets to the jovial mirth of their revel. Other companies seem to have had similar revels and processions, which, picturesque as they appear at the distance of centuries, seem in reality to have afforded scenes of riot and murder so outrageous as to necessitate their suppression by a Royal missive to the Chancellor.

But we have wandered so far into antiquity that we may gladly allow the mention of these revels to lead us back to the more modern times of which we are treating and to the fairs and wakes which had superseded them. The fair of St. Frideswide, whose memory is still annually kept up by the cake stall which adorns St. Aldate's, the great fair during the seven days of whose continuance the custody of the city was given up into the hands of the monastery, the town courts were closed in favour of the Stewards' Piepowder Courts, and the keys of the gates rendered by the Mayor to the Prior—had, even in A. Wood's time, "fallen almost to nothing." The Austin fair, which the Augustin friars had held on the site of the present Wadham College, had been long forgotten. Fairs, therefore, in the sense of resorts for traffic, there were none. Two wakes however remained; the one Gloucester Green, the other St. Giles's. Of the latter we find no mention—a chance war of advertisements gives us a passing peep into the first. We see "the usual and accustomed pastime of backsword playing," the disorderly mob, the "informer" singled out and chased across the Green. In presence of such scenes we fail to perceive the justice of Salmon's eulogium—"The people of the place are more civilised than the inhabitants of any other town in Great Britain." They were probably neither better nor worse than the citizens of "the other towns." It was, despite its material progress, a rough and rude state of society, governed by feelings and sympathies differing widely from our own. We need not shrug our shoulders too complacently when our eye is met by constant advertisements of cock fighting; when the "Pit" in Holywell is seen to be as established an amusement as the Bull-ring in Spain; when the news-

paper chronicles, as an edifying feat, the "drinking three quarts of ale in three minutes" by a labourer at the Observatory; or the constant "deaths from drink" that testify to the prevalence of the vice. Ladies have their vices now, though we should stare to hear—as Hearne tells us then—of the death of a canon's wife at Christ Church from overlove of the brandy bottle, or of attempts at suicide by ladies of rank from inability to pay their gambling debts. If again and again we are horrified in perusing the tedious records of the time to find the constant outrages which were perpetrated against old women on the ground of "witchcraft;" the stripping and weighing against the church bible; the tying of hands to feet and hurling into the neighbouring pond. We must remember that a century has elapsed, that we boast of our educational advance, and yet that the belief in witchcraft lingers still in our rural districts. A recollection of the fearful immorality which still prevails in the mining counties may perhaps soften our abhorrence of the brutal jocular carelessness with which the papers of the time treat that most brutal of all outrages on decency, the sale of a wife. Such sales were then frequent enough. We have before us one at Leeds, where the ceremony was attended by one thousand spectators, and the bargain concluded for twenty-one guineas, a sum usual in these cases, and which proves that the parties concerned could not at any rate plead ignorance or poverty in excuse. In justice to ourselves, indeed, we must own that we have at any rate shamed vice out of its outrageous publicity. A mistress is not now regarded as the ordinary appendage of a gentleman's household; wives are not lent "by an eminent tradesman" to his comrade for a night; women do not (as we find one in the year 1775) marry in but an undergarment with the notion of thus getting rid of their debts; nor do husbands advertising for a wife who has eloped promise the person "who is so obliging as to bring her back to her husband the first night's lodging with her in his house." If the times have not grown more virtuous, they have at least grown more shamefaced.

In concluding this account of the three years, we have only to notice the few physical phenomena which they presented. The shock of an earthquake, which was distinctly felt in September, 1775, was soon followed by a storm of such violence as to be without parallel in the memory of those then living. Roofs were torn off, chimneys shattered, and holes perforated in the ground by the lightning. The more prominent event during the period, however, was the great flood of 1774. Four days and nights of incessant rain rendered the temporary footbridge

which supplied the place of Magdalen Bridge, then in process of re-erection, impassable; the roads were covered, and communications carried on in boats; St. Thomas's church was filled with water for a week, and service interrupted; while a landslip of an acre of ground, on the south side of Shotover, shifted one hundred yards into the valley beneath.

Note.—We are aware that in one or two instances in this 'Second Series' of papers there is some slight repetition of facts, but as they are interwoven with other matters of interest that have not already appeared, we did not deem it worth while to strike them out.—ED.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. X.—NEW SERIES.

IN the Papers which have already appeared we have endeavoured to present to our readers the Oxford of the Last Century in its social aspects. We have painted the university of the time, its servitors and poor scholars, its rakes and debauchees—we have whispered the toasts in Merton gardens, and sipped punch in the coffee-house—and, passing on to descriptions more purely civic, we have gleaned from paragraphs, but too brief and few, some notion of the tradesman of the day, of the drunken voter, the useless watch, the pillory, and the gaol. In future papers we shall, it is hoped, be enabled to fill up these sketches in still greater detail; the series which will follow on the educational position of Oxford will open up an interesting side of her social life in the sketch of "the Don" of that day, "steeped in prejudice and port;" while Papers similar to those which have just come to a close will little by little enable us to realise more completely the every day life of the shop and the counter.

But this—though the more interesting aspect to us—was not, it must be remembered, the aspect in which Oxford appeared to the England of the time. Nor was it Oxford's educational position which gave her the importance which she retained through the first half of this century. Walpole, who hated books and tossed history aside with a contemptuous—"That I know *must* be false," was not likely to care much for schoolmaster-functions which the university so imperfectly discharged. Nor did the country squire, whose library consisted of the tattered "Baker's Chronicle," and a few books on simples and farriery, in the hall-window, care one straw for the learning of Dr. Hyde, or the resources of the

Bodleian. Yet Oxford was the one point of interest for both squire and minister. It was the Jacobite capital of England. The traders of London might think of Addison's "sponge" and shout themselves hoarse for Public Credit and the Protestant Succession; Oxford brooded over memories of parliamentary visitors and "purified" colleges, and toasted the "King over the water." It was the place of all others where tradition exercised most influence, and the traditions of 1640 hung round Oxford like a baneful spell. Christ Church still boasted of her loyally-defiant Dr. Fell; even Jesus could lay her poverty at the door of the fraudulent Principal whom the Visitors had set over her. The ring of arms had hardly yet died out of the memories of men. There, in Bodley's Library, the curious visitor was shewn the map in which "H. Sherburne, Esq., a native of the city, and Comptroller of the Ordnance," had graven Oxford "while it was a garrison, with all its fortifications, bastions, trenches," and on which Charles himself, "much approving, wrote the names of the bastions with his own hand." Very old men could remember the scenes which A. Wood's rough memoranda have handed down to us; the students but too willingly drawn from their books to the muster; the troop of university horse which has bequeathed its name to the "Oxford blues;" the city girded by floods on every side save the north, and the Abingdon road, cleaving the inundations, covered with long trains of provisions, or echoing the tramp of Rupert and his straggling troop, fagged and weary from skirmishes as successful—and as fatal to the noble and good—as that of Charlgrove. Such a one was the "old Will Bermuda," with

whom Hearne often, as he tells us, conversed, who used to supply his father's place, as a sentinel on the ramparts, "where Buddard's garden, as they call it, by Wadham is now." The old man could remember Charles, "a thin man, of a little picked beard and little whiskers," and the hanging of the notable traitor on the oak towards Abingdon, to which the execution gave the name of "Blake's Oak." The Restoration of the Royal Family was no mere matter of political feeling in Oxford; it meant there the restoration of hundreds of fellows and scholars who had been ejected for their cause. Men so expelled, so restored, were not likely easily to forget to whom they owed the one benefit or the other. And so it was that when the fever-fit of loyalty, which had succeeded the Restoration, had abated elsewhere, it was still maintained at its height in Oxford. Thither Charles II. prorogued his Parliament when London and Shaftesbury seemed likely to foil the projects of the "merry monarch;" and its streets had been filled with the armed retinues of the great opposition lords, who distrusted the pledges of a Stuart. It rewarded Charles's confidence with the most abject devotion. No job was too dirty, no humiliation too base, for its loyalty. Again and again Whigs smiled and the printers rejoiced to see its Heads looking on while beadles stirred the fire that consumed some anathematized volume or pamphlet. A word from Court, and Locke was expelled from Christ Church; and foreign men of learning smiled when the exiled philosopher told them his great work was contraband in the university on account of its "Whig principles." But Oxford was ready to stoop to compliances baser even than this. When Charles was balked in his desire to sacrifice Collins, "the Protestant Joiner," by the "Ignoramus" of a London grand jury, the victim was despatched to Oxford, and the judicial murder was easily consummated.

With facts like these staring us in the face, we may perchance have little sympathy to spare for the university when the characteristic ingratitude of the Stuarts turned upon itself the tyranny it had so warmly applauded when exercised on others. For the moment "non-resistance" was forgotten. The King was defied, and the Prince of Orange welcomed. But the welcome of the Prince augured no welcome for King William. The oath of allegiance forced the waverers to a quick decision. Some, the worthiest, resigned all rather than take it; the majority swore, and counted the imposition of the oath a new grievance against "the intruder." As day by day the memory of the wrong James had done them grew weaker, the memory of the wrong they had done James

waxed the stronger and stronger. Oxford began to re-assume its position during the Great Rebellion. Then, as now, the Stuarts had been driven from the throne—then, as now, a "test" had emptied fellowships and preferments—and the acutest politicians of the time could not predict but that a restoration now, as then, was an event within the bounds of probability. Communications were soon opened with the Pretender. Non-jurors retired to Oxford to find cognate sympathies and society, and formed a little junto for the reception and discussion of despatches from St. Germain's. Mr. Clifford, the ejected rector of Russell in Wilts, was there for the sake of "honest company," and by this time "honest" was the cant term for "Jacobite." Holdsworth, an ejected fellow of Magdalen, and well known for his amusing "*Muscipula*," had brought thither from Rome the pictures of the Pretender and his consort; Leak brings news—to be told when none but honest folk are present—of the birth of that son of the Chevalier de St. George who, under the name of Prince Charles Edward, was to culminate at Derby and set at Culloden. In St. Giles's lived Dr. Wynne, a man learned and benevolent, who had put a stop to the profligate sale of fellowships at All Souls only to be deprived of his own "at midnight" by the Whig head, Dr. Gardiner. This junto it was that leavened the whole mass, but the mass needed little leavening. Freshmen were drawn from the very quarters where Jacobitism still reigned triumphant, from the country nooks where the squire caught up the Scotch songs that were creeping about, and trolled out "Here's a health to him that's far awa'"; or the vicar weekly thundered against "the pretended right to resistance." "I am a Tory," says one of them, "and all my family are Tories; my grandfather lost his estate against Oliver Cromwell; my father was a great sufferer for King James II.; and I myself had my head broke in defence of Dr. Sacheverill before I was eight years old." One so trained was ready to sit down at his first introduction to his tutor, and toast Ormond and Mar six bumpers deep.

Besides the historical causes—if we may so term them—there were other circumstances peculiar to the time which aided Oxford in becoming the great capital of Jacobite England. London indeed was then, even in a greater degree than now, not only the emporium of commerce, but of learning, of manners, one may almost say, of civilisation. It was to England what Paris is now to France. Other cities bore no comparison with the capital; manufactures had not begotten Manchester, nor had commerce reared Liverpool. London was the great

magnet to which whatever genius cropped up was irresistibly attracted, that drew Chatterton from Bristol, Goldsmith from Dublin, Johnson and Garrick from Lichfield. But there were material obstacles which circumscribed the range of the influence which it radiated back in return. Prominent among these were the badness and insecurity of the roads. And every mile from London the roads grew less traversable and less secure. We have already dwelt enough on the highwaymen and their exploits, but we can hardly now realise the dread and terror of travel which those exploits created. Still less can we realise the condition of the roads, the long lanes of mud and ruts through which the lumbering "diligence" ploughed its way to London. Here is a Prince on his travels, no further back than 1734. "As the Prince of Orange was going from Newbury to Abingdon to see Oxford, and the road going through a lane almost impassable for a coach and very dangerous, a wealthy farmer, whose estate lay contiguous, threw down the hedges and opened the way for his highness to pass through his grounds."

One consequence was that the provincial districts fell far behind in the progress of intelligence. Addison has humourously sketched a Templar riding forth on a briefless circuit and busy in marking how, by imperceptible degrees, costume grew more antiquated every stage of his journey, till on his arrival in Cornwall he found the high sheriff priding himself on the fashion of a coat which had been fifty years out of date in town. And it was with manners as with costume. The farther from the metropolis, the farther one went from refinement or education. Wales was for all practical purposes at a greater distance from London than it is now from Vienna. Without adopting Squire Western as the common type of the country gentleman of the day, one can understand the contempt which the novelist's portrait undoubtedly displays. The riches of the country aristocracy might indeed find their way to the amusement, the society, the dissipation of town, but the bulk of the country squires vegetated on their estates, cut off from communication with the world without (save by the monthly "Dyer's Letter," humble precursor of our newspapers and reviews) an occupation but that of hunting, or an ambition but that of being the deepest sot among the toppers of the quorum. The squire's dame (as Humphrey Clinker reveals her to us), spite of "her rose-coloured negligee, her yellow damask, and blue quilted petticoat," which, with French commode and Mechlin headdress, were disintombed from the walnut-press at the advent of a new visitor, was but a farmer's wife. She had to care

for her cheese, her savings of butter-milk, her turkeys, chickens, and goslings; it was her business to see when old Moll had another litter of pigs, what the Alderney calf might fetch, or whether the goose was sitting; it was her eye that kept the maids busy at their spinning-wheels, and watched over ungrateful "Mary Jones that loved to be romping with the men."

The chief result of all this was the greater comparative importance of the provincial towns. The one great centre being practically beyond access, each started into the little centres of its own district. We pass through these country towns, and wonder at the great brick houses, the haunt now of a score of lodgers, but whence of old the county magnates sallied forth to hunt, ball, or assembly. Macadam and Stephenson have been the vandals of these little rural capitals. But at this time they were in the heyday of prosperity, and this prosperity was shared by Oxford; itself a provincial centre, with which no rival could compete. Here the youth, just fresh from the dullness and ignorance of the country, could find all the excess, the life, the refinement of town. It was a sudden plunge at an age when the mind is most susceptible of impressions—that plunge into the Tory atmosphere of Oxford. And the prejudices, which the neophyte encountered were but the counterparts of his own. All that chivalry and noble feeling had suggested in favour of the exiled race was now confirmed by the sanction of those whom, at first, he must have looked up to as men of learning and religion. He could give the lie to the Whig attorney of his native town, who contrasted the ignorance of the Jacobites with the men of letters who rallied round the constitution. The men of letters, whom he met in the High, or the Broad, were Jacobites to a man. It was no wonder that Oxford, thus reinforced, became the focus of disloyalty to the House of Hanover; that after abdicating her functions of the guardian of religion, as the nurse of learning, she came forward as the defiant champion of a retrograde and senseless Toryism. But when the patient firmness of the natural will had foiled again and again her efforts at what would have been self-destruction; when the Jacobite blindness had passed from her eyes, and she saw herself landed in safety on the securer ground of "Church and King"—it may be that a few humourists, such as Dr. King, smiled at the story of the poor Irish bricklayer, who had betted against the possibility of his comrades carrying him up a ladder in his hod, and when safely disembarked on the roof could find no better reflection on his foolhardiness than "Faix, but I had hopes at the third story."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XI.—NEW SERIES.

In our last Paper we attempted to sketch, in detail, the causes which led to the political position which the University assumed in the beginning of the eighteenth century, a position so opposite to her own interests and to the sentiments of the wiser and more statesmanlike among the nation at large—the greater importance of provincial towns, the metropolitan position which Oxford occupied towards the young students who flocked to her, the character of those classes from whom she drew her chief reinforcements, the country squires and the country parsons. But, above all, we directed attention to the traditions in which Oxford was bound and entangled, the noble memories of sufferings, manfully borne, for the cause of the Stuarts, the bitter remembrance of injuries, never to be forgotten, inflicted by the usurpers. A mere glance round the landscape would, in Tory hearts, revive the bitterest reminiscences. The great forest of Bagley, that stretched to the very skirts of Oxford, and enveloped Abingdon in old time, had, indeed, long been curtailed. But, up to the Great Rebellion, the neighbourhood of Oxford was well-wooded; spite of Fuller's complaints: "Indeed, the woods there are put to too hard a task in their daily duty, viz, to find fuel and timber for all the houses in, and many out of, the shire, and cannot possibly hold out, if not seasonably relieved by pit-coal, found here, or sea-coal brought thither." The forests had been dear to the city. "When Shotover woods," we quote the same amusing author, "being bestowed by Charles the First on a person of honour, were likely to be cut down, the University, by letters, favoured their preservation, wherein this, among many other

parenthetical expressions, 'that Oxford was one of the eyes of the land, and Shotover woods the hair of the eyelids, the loss whereof must needs prejudice the sight with too much moisture flowing therein.' This retrenched the design for the present, but in what case the woods stand at this day is to me unknown." Dr. Plot, however, can tell. "The hills, 'tis true, before the late unhappy wars, were well enough—as Camden says—beset with woods, where now 'tis so scarce 'tis common to sell it by weight." The ravages during the Great Rebellion had left traces that no loyalist heart could well forget.

But to this natural sympathy, and to the pride which might arise from a consciousness of the political importance which Oxford now assumed, we must add that perverseness with which the University has so often shown itself the antagonist of national feeling. "Chronica si penses," says the old proverb,

Cum pugnant Oxonienses

Tunc post sex menses volat ira per Angligenas.

But the wrath of the people was as likely to be in opposition as in accordance with the result of the University's contests. When crown and nation alike took alarm at what were then considered the socialist doctrines of Wycliffe, the reformer could find his staunchest adherents and disciples in the lecture-rooms of Oxford. So violent was the tendency that Richard Fleming, at first a strong partisan, but after his elevation to the see of Lincoln, as strong an opponent of the new doctrines, thought it wise to establish the college which bears the name of his see, for the purpose of perpetually opposing the tenets of "that pestiferous sect," as the statutes

termed the Lollards. But the first dawn of the Reformation had been watched by the great prelates who founded Corpus Christi and Brasenose, as bulwarks against the spread of heresy in the University. And so, though literature and scholars such as Erasmus and Ludovicus Vives spread "the new learning" in Oxford, and the teachers whom Wolsey had gathered from Cambridge and elsewhere secretly countenanced the rising heresy, the University, as a body, stood aloof from the movement; it required menaces to gain her assent to that divorce which was the turning point in the contest, and Oxford is only associated with the Reformation by that burning of the three bishops that "lighted such a fire in England as shall not easily be put out." In the great national strife against Charles the First, Maynwaring went forth from Oxford to preach "No resistance," and Laud to counsel "Thorough."

There were some who believed that by violent measures the Universities could be brought into unison with the national feeling, and amongst the earliest of these was Locke. "Sir, you have made a glorious Revolution, but the good effects of it will soon be lost if no care be taken to regulate our Universities," was the appeal of one who, perhaps, still smarted with the disgrace of an exclusion, on mere political grounds, from Christ Church. But the Government wisely held aloof—how wisely the result of Sacheverell's "persecution" was destined to prove. During William's reign and the first years of his successor the University merely talked. Nonjurors were content to ignore the "usurpers," and in the midst of the rejoicings for Marlborough's victories, to exult over the exploits of the young Pretender, though fighting against those whom he claimed as his subjects and countrymen. "Amongst others who distinguished themselves in the battle near Mons," says Hearne, "must not be forgot the young King of England, who fought under the character of the Chevalier de St. George, and 'tis by that title he passes. He showed abundance of courage and resolution, led up his troops with unspeakable bravery, appeared in the utmost dangers, and at last was wounded." Jacobites, to whom London was dangerous, sought shelter in Oxford. Leslie, author of the seditious pamphlet, "The Memorial of the Church of England," in his flight from outlawry, could visit the Bodleian under a flimsy incognito, without fear of discovery. A visitor of greater interest to us was the father of the Wesleys. In a previous Paper we saw him starting, without a penny, to Oxford, and eking out his subsistence as a servitor, by teaching and composing exercises for the idlers of his college. He

was ordained, became, in turn, a navy chaplain and a London curate, and, in his latter capacity, distinguished himself by refusing to read James's obnoxious "Declaration," and taking for his text the reply of Daniel, "Be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image that thou hast set up." The Revolution came, and Wesley was amongst the foremost to write in its defence; and the dedication of his work to Queen Mary was rewarded with the living of Epworth, in Lincolnshire. Like his sons, he was a poet, and a poem on the battle of Blenheim procured him a chaplain's place in one of the new regiments, and a promise of greater favour. But Wesley was among those whose conscience or obstinacy are for ever marring their fortune. He had engaged in an acrimonious controversy with the Dissenters, and the request of the "person" on whom all his hopes of preferment rested that he would drop the dispute, "had a contrary effect to what was intended. I left my fortunes in God's hands, and resolved to act according to my conscience," he says in his letter. Accordingly, no sooner had he gone down into the country than he threw himself into election struggles, wrote letters, which his enemies charged with treason, was ousted from his chaplaincy, and thrown into prison for debt to one of the friends of the candidate he had opposed. The same zeal that had involved him in these misfortunes had gained him bitter foes among his Lincolnshire parishioners; but we must leave his own begging letter to tell the story of a poor parson's life and misfortunes in the last century. "I had been thrown behind by a series of misfortunes. My parsonage barn was blown down ere I had recovered the taking of my living; my house, great part of it, was burnt down about two years since; my flax, great part of my income, now in my own hands (hemp was the principal crop of the neighbourhood), I doubt wilfully fired and burnt in the night, when I was last in London; my income sunk above one half by the low price of grain; and my credit ruined by the taking away my regiment. I was brought to Lincoln Castle, and, about three weeks since my very unkind people, thinking they had not yet done enough, have, in the night, stabbed my three cows, which were a great part of my poor family's subsistence. For which God forgive them."

The letter was responded to by considerable subscriptions on the part of all the colleges, and a vote of £20 from the justices in session; but the sympathy was not so much for his distress as for his opposition to the Whigs. "There is a gathering in the University for the relief of Mr. Wesley," says

Hearne, "to the great mortification of the fanatics." To the same charitable end tended the ceaseless calumnies which Oxford common-rooms poured forth against the character of the Prince whose first arrival they had so vehemently welcomed. To us it would seem simply ridiculous were a grave Don to assert that "King William gave £1,000 to those infamous villains Blackill and Fuller, that were embarked in a design to take away the lives of Archbishop Sancroft and Bishop Spratt;" but the lie thus circulated became a source of exultation to the Tories and of indignation to the Whigs. On the other hand no eulogy could be too great for the sufferers for "loyalty's" sake. Lord Griffin dies in the tower, "confined there," comments Hearne, "for treason, as they now call sticking close to the oath of allegiance, and adhering firmly to the undoubted Sovereign." The most odious epithets were lavished on their political foes. "Vile, stinking Whigs" almost recalls to our memory O'Connell's "base, bloody, and brutal." A chorus of indignant invective saluted any public demonstration of Whig principles. Long after this several of the nobility had to vindicate their characters—as though the aspersion were a grave one—from having met together purposely to carouse on the 30th of January, the "Martyr's Day." And the Tory annalist commemorates "an abominable riot committed in All Souls' College. Mr. Dalton and Mr. Talbot, son of the Bishop of Oxford, both fellows, had a dinner drest at 12 a.m., part of which was woodcocks, whose heads they cut off in contempt of the memory of the blessed martyr. At this dinner were present two of the pro-proctors of Oriel, Mr. Ibbetson and Mr. Rogers, to their shame be it spoken, both low churchmen. 'Tis to be noted that this Dalton, an empty fellow, is one of those whom Archbishop Tennison put in on the death of the late Warden. He was for having calves' heads, but the cook refused to dress them."

Greater persons than cooks however were now coming forward to vindicate the Toryism of the University. Sacheverell, like his personal friend but political opponent, Addison, was a fellow of Magdalen. It is hard to guess the causes of the friendship between two so opposed in character as well as opinion, for, from the testimony of his very supporters, Sacheverell was a man of infinite bluster but of scanty parts or knowledge. It fell, however, to his lot to preach at St. Paul's before the Lord Mayor and Corporation, and he selected for the occasion a sermon which he had just preached at St. Mary's. But language that fell unheeded in Oxford sounded like treason at St. Paul's. He upbraided "the fanatics"

for condemning the king of high treason against "his supreme subjects." He taunted the Whig ministers, and singled out Godolphin by the nickname of Volpone. Then, turning on the Whig London clergy, who sat in great numbers in the choir—"The Whigs," he thundered out, "are conformists in faction, half conformists in practice, and nonconformist in judgment." The glove thus boldly thrown down was at once taken up by the opposite party. The Government talked of prosecution. The Lord Mayor and Corporation refused to order the sermon to be printed. But the University was not backward in supporting her daring son. Drs. Moss and Smalridge refused to preach before the Lord Mayor "because of the ill-usage Dr. Sacheverell had received." The populace, wearied with the long war whose objects they could not understand, and roused by the cry of "the church in danger," flocked to hear the preacher at Lothbury, and pulled down Meeting-houses to show their zeal for the Establishment. Mobs surrounded the Queen's coach with shouts of "The Church and Dr. Sacheverell." The impeachment went on, and Atterbury and the Oxford wits penned an ingenious and impressive defence. The return from the trial was a triumphal progress. Addresses were presented to the doctor; purses were thrown into his coach. Everywhere he stopped on his journey to his parsonage in Wales mobs turned out to huzzah him. Oxford received him in solemn procession, and the bells rang as for a victory.

It was indeed a victory for the Tories. The Queen was weary of imperious Duchess Sarah of Marlborough, and the nation was weary of the war. The Sacheverell mania gave a last blow to the tottering ministry, and, aided by Mrs. Masham, Harley and Bolingbroke came into power. Peace was made, and the people were contented. Whispers spread abroad of ministerial intrigues for the restoration of the Pretender on the Queen's death, and the Jacobites waited in silence. "Mr. Gifford told us last night," says Hearne, "when several were in company, all honest men, that the young king was in England when the present Queen, as she is styled, was crowned, and further says the Queen kist him at that time, he being present at the coronation. This is a great secret." It was on "secrets" like these that the Tories relied, as they saw the Queen's health gradually declining. Smalridge and Atterbury were rapidly promoted; Oxford again basked in court favour, and its tranquillity gave no sign of the stormy outbreak which was so soon to follow the downfall of its hopes. This, however, we reserve for our next Paper.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

NO. XII.—NEW SERIES.

THE accession of Harley to power, the Jacobite sympathies of the Queen, the hopes that rested on her failing health and on the success of the intrigues of Bolingbroke and Ormond, had given a seeming peace to the university. Both parties shook hands on the brink of a deadly struggle. They accosted each other in the streets; politics were carefully excluded from conversation; party words—those badges of faction—laid for a while aside. The Whig was silent about the "Pretender;" the Tory, in return, said little about the "Elector of Brunswick." The one party looked hopefully to Hanover—its rival, to the Ministry and St. Germain.

At length the crisis came. The Ministry, disunited and shaken by Bolingbroke's manoeuvres, hung back irresolutely. The Jacobite members of the Cabinet exhorted them in vain to a bolder course of action. Atterbury, bishop though he was, swore with an oath that, give him but a regiment of the Guards, and he would proclaim the Pretender in the heart of the city. But, while their enemies were discussing, the great Whig lords had forced their way into the Council Chamber. The Queen died, and Bolingbroke was flying for his life across the Channel, Harley waiting for impeachment at home. The Elector was on the throne, and the Whigs sang a triumphant welcome to the first of the Georges.

Bitter as the disappointment must have been, the new king was at all events received without open opposition in the greater part of his dominions. In Scotland, indeed, there were signs of the rebellion which Mar was so soon to put himself at the head of, but in England the discontent only expressed itself in that "grumbling" which an Englishman

reckons among his constitutional privileges. Here and there one might find a parish clerk that had "ransacked Hopkins and Sternhold for staves in favour of the race of Jacob; after the example of their politic predecessors in Oliver's days, who on every Sabbath were for binding kings in chains and nobles with links of iron." The Jacobite beauty might parade her white rose, to spite the rival fair one, who, "to show her zeal for revolution principles, had adorned her bosom with a Sweet William." Elections for "Toasts" might be decided in clubs rather on political than on personal grounds, and a trifling deformity be pardoned on account of "honest principles." In the theatres the ladies patched on different sides as they differed in opinion; and the audience ranged into parties, selected their respective favourites, and hooted or applauded every chance phrase that they could wrest to the contests of the day. In the country the strife took other, but not more demonstrative forms. The elder Wesley's house—according to his own account—was haunted by a goblin that proved its Jacobitism by rarely suffering him to pray for the King or the Prince of Wales without disturbing the family devotions. "As to the devil's being an enemy to King George," replied his son Samuel, to whom he communicated his troubles, "were I the King myself, I should rather old Nick should be my enemy than my friend." Even up to the beginning of George III.'s reign there were persons in Bristol whose political principles would not allow them to receive King William's halfpence, and such was the inconvenience to trade which attended their refusal that the interference of the magistrates was thought necessary.

But a more envenomed opposition awaited the triumph of the Whig cause at Oxford. There the correspondents of Atterbury, the confidants of Dr. King, waited, hour by hour, for some interference that never came, some rising that never occurred. They exulted at the small number of people who attended to hear the Hanoverian proclaimed at Abingdon. "A person in an open-sleeved gown, and in a cinnamon-coloured suit," left at the Mayor's house a letter, which, in its medley of cowardly threats, craven petitions, and vague intimations, gives us a very lively picture of the state of the Jacobite minds of the time.

"Mr. Mayor,—If you are so *honest* a man as to prefer your duty and allegiance to your lawfull sovereign before the fear of danger, you will not need this caution, which comes from your friends to warn you if you should receive an order to proclaim Hanover not to comply with it. For the hand of God is now at work to set things on a right footing, and in a few days you will see wonderful changes, which if you are wise enough to foresee you will obtain grace and favour from the hands of his sacred Majesty King James by proclaiming him voluntarily, which otherwise you will be forced to do with disgrace. If you have not the courage to do this, at least for your own safety delay proclaiming Hanover as long as you can under pretence of sickness or some other reason. For you cannot do it without certain hazard of your life, be you ever so well guarded. I, who am but secretary to the rest, having a particular friendship for you and an opinion of your honesty and good inclination to his Majesty's service, have prevailed on them to let me give you this warning. If you would know who the rest are, our name is Legion—and we are many."

The only notice taken of this ludicrous epistle was a proclamation by the Heads of Houses, and an offer of £100 for the discovery of the deliverer in the cinnamon-coloured coat. Broadwater, the Mayor, "honest" though his subsequent conduct shews him to have been, was prudent enough to proclaim the accession on Carfax with all the usual ceremonies, while the Heads met at the Convocation House and proceeded to St. Mary's for the same purpose. The Tories, however, exulted with Hearne "on the small appearance of Doctors and Masters" in the procession, and in the feeble rejoicings and scanty illuminations with which Oxford celebrated the occasion. But day after day passed without notes of disturbance, the country was quiet, and men began to hope that the same peaceful sentiments would prevail at the university. There, however, the waiting against hope begat a bitterness which could not long contain it-

self in even an appearance of content. The rage of the vanquished broke out in all the malice of a baffled and disappointed faction. Libels covered the tables of the coffee-houses; grave dons toasted "The King over the water;" rioters sang treasonable lampoons beneath the windows of the hated Hanoverians. They were marked out for persecution and scorn. Common-rooms had no mercy on them; Golgotha—the place of skulls, as the Hebdomadal room was then called—denied them justice or redress. Nor was it better without college than within. If they ventured forth they were sure of insult from the crowd; gownsmen shouted at them as they passed, and the rabble at their bidding hustled and mobbed them.

But the Whigs, few as they were in Oxford, were too fresh from the triumph of their cause to yield without a struggle. Their lack of numbers called for union, and it is characteristic of their age that they found this union in a club. To this—the Constitution Club—all were to be admitted who were well-affected to the Government, and (as we presume few Whigs could be found among undergraduates) not below the Bachelor's degree. Originated by some members of New College, and patronised by Dr. Gardiner, the Head of All Souls, it soon became the centre round which the poor persecuted Whigs grouped. The Tories fumed at "the insolent loyalty" of the united Hanoverians. But, as yet, though individual members might be persecuted, no opportunity could be found for attack on the club. On the 28th of May, 1714, however, came the first anniversary of the birthday of the new Sovereign. The bells "were jumbled by the Whiggish fanatical crew," as Hearne growls, but "honest folk" mocked, and drank deep for King James. Mobs paraded the streets, shouting for the Pretender, and putting a stop to every kind of rejoicing. The Constitution Club had gathered to commemorate the day at the King's Head. The windows were illuminated, and preparations made for a bonfire. Tossing up their caps, and scattering money among the rabble that flocked to the front of the hotel, the Jacobite gownsmen egged them on with shouts of "No George;" "James for ever;" "Ormond," or "Bolingbroke." The fagots were torn to pieces, showers of brickbats were thrown into the clubroom. It was feared lives would have been lost had not the Constitutioners escaped by the back door, and slunk away to their colleges. Thus baffled, the mob rolled on to attack all illuminated houses. Every Whig window was smashed. The meeting house was entered and gutted. This was the usual mode of showing concern for the Church by men who, like Addison's Tory

landlord, "had not time to go to church himself, but—as my friend told me in my ear—had headed the mob at the pulling down of two or three meeting houses." There was some reason for the essayist's caustic comment—"Their concern for the Church always rises highest when they are acting in direct opposition to its doctrines. Our streets are filled at the same time with zeal and drunkenness, riots and religion. We must confess that if noise and clamour, slander and calumny, treason and perjury, were articles of their communion there would be none living more punctual in the performance of their duties."

At last the mob dispersed for the night, publicly giving out that "the glorious work" was left unfinished till the morrow. The Twenty-ninth of May was associated with too significant reminiscences to be allowed to pass in quiet. Sunday though it was, the streets were filled with people running up and down with oak boughs in their hats, and shouts of "King James, the true king—No Usurper. The Good Duke of Ormond!" The streets were brilliantly illuminated; indeed, wherever disregard was shown to the mob's fiat, the windows were broken. It is a sign of the deep disloyalty of the place that even those who had not shared in the riot of the past night, boasted of their part in it. The real rioters displayed their hoarseness in proof of the vigour of their uproar, and recruited their voices with treasonable healths in every tavern. Oxford had seen no such public rejoicing since the Restoration. The crowds grew thicker and noisier towards even. A rumour had gone abroad that Oriel had given shelter to some of the Constitutionalists. The mob rushed to the attack, and threatened to break open the closely-barred gates. At this moment a shot from a window wounded one of the ringleaders, a gowmsman of Brasenose, and the crowd fled in confusion to break fresh windows, gut the houses of dissenters, and pull down the chapels of the Anabaptists and Quakers.

Such is the Whig account of the great Jacobite

riots in Oxford in the year of the accession of King George. The account of the Tories was very different. "Golgotha" met to deliberate on the causes of the riot. It was at once laid at the door of the club. They had met there, it was urged, to carry out "extraordinary designs," been prevented by an "honest party" in an adjoining room, and forced to steal away. The guilt, too, of the bloodshed was laid at their door. 'Twas in vain that others, not belonging to the club, who had been in the street at the time of the attack, alleged that its members had given no provocation, had left the tavern before nine, and had been forced to use weapons in self-defence. It was replied by the Heads of Houses, and to such a reply it is difficult to see what answer could be made, that had the Constitutional Club not been assembled in the tavern on the 28th, the riot could not have occurred, and that on this ground the club must be adjudged the originators of the disturbances. Nor were the Heads alone in this conclusion. The grand jury of the county made a similar presentment at the assizes, branding the Constitutionalists as a set of factious men, "who, shrouding themselves under the specious name of the Constitution Club, were enemies to monarchy and all good government, and had been the authors of all the tumults and discord that had happened in the city or county of Oxford." The county juries, however, had long since earned a reputation for unflinching Jacobitism by the trial of Du Cain, an Irish gentleman, who was indicted for declaring his belief that the soul of King William was in hell. The charge could not be denied, but the jury, nevertheless, returned a verdict of acquittal, stating their belief that the word which he had used the prisoner did not intend to convey the meaning of a place of torment, but merely that intermediate place of rest where the dead repose till the last judgment day! After sophistry sad as this we may, perhaps, attach less importance to the logic by which the grand jury condemned the members of the Constitutional Club.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XIII.—NEW SERIES.

THE Heads seem to have entertained a reasonable doubt whether the account of these riots, which proved satisfactory to themselves, would prove equally satisfactory to the Court. "Rattling letters," as Hearne phrases it, had come down to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Charlett, and to the Mayor. "The riots," these missives urged, "had been begun by scholars, and scholars promoted them. . . . The Vice-Chancellor did not endeavour to suppress them, and the other magistrates were no less remiss." Old Sherwin, the headle, was indeed sent up to London to represent what the Tories styled "the truth of the matter;" but the Heads felt that the patience of the Government had reached its utmost limits. When June 10th brought the Pretender's birthday, the zeal of his supporters was rudely suppressed. Charlett and the Proctors were industrious in hindering any sign of rejoicing. Illuminations indeed were commenced at Wadham, but they were promptly extinguished by the Vice-Chancellor. Atterbury's friend, Smalridge, now, in addition to his Bishopric of Bristol, Dean of Christ Church, invited all the noblemen and gentlemen commoners of his house to supper, and kept them in his lodgings, and was christened "a sneaker" for his pains. "All honest men were obliged to drink King James's health either privately or out of town." Hearne, with a party of Balliol non-jurors, made merry at Foxcombe.

The Jacobites had no reason to reproach Golgotha with "sneaking." At their instigation the university, on the impeachment and withdrawal of their Chancellor, Ormond, had unanimously elected as his successor his equally Jacobite brother, the Earl of Arran. On the very day of the coronation of King

George the Convocation met to confer on Sir Constantine Phipps, one of the most active of the Tory partisans, the honorary degree of D.C.L., "with particular marks of honour and esteem." Of their representatives in Parliament, Bromley disputed the Tory leadership with Wyndham, and Whitlock had to apologise to the House for the intemperate language which, in his opposition to the dissolution, he applied to the Throne. On the birthday of the Prince of Wales no signs of rejoicing were shown, and the bells were silent. A recruiting party was in Oxford at the time, and its Major, indignant at the affront to the house of Hanover, bustled off to the Mayor. The Mayor shuffled; he did not know, he urged, that it was the Prince Regent's birthday. The Major swore he would draw out his regiment, and celebrate the day with suitable rejoicings. The soldiers were drawn out, and the Mayor appeared, as was alleged, to prevent disturbance. A vast mob followed at his heels, and filled up the streets. His very attendants insulted the soldiers in their march with opprobrious language and cries of "Down with the Roundheads." Dirt and stones were thrown at them; some the mob even attempted to disarm. Encouraged by the forbearance of the "redcoats," the mob surrounded the house where the officers and some of the collegians had met to commemorate the day. The windows were broken by stones thrown from the house opposite, that of one Hurst, an ironmonger; and the soldiers to revenge the affront began a series of retaliations. There was every prospect of a serious riot; two or three of the soldiers had returned the insults of the Mayor's attendants by firing, but with powder only. The frightened authorities

at last applied to the Major for aid, patrols were sent through the streets, and the soldiers ordered to their quarters. Both parties forwarded conflicting accounts to London, and some time subsequently the matter was brought before the House of Lords in a debate on the Mutiny Bill. Instead of waiting to be put on its defence, the university boldly constituted itself assailant. A peer complained on its behalf of the disorders which had been caused by the soldiers in different quarters, and especially in Oxford. It was moved, that before proceeding with the Bill an enquiry should be made into the riot in that city; and, on an address being resolved on, the papers relating to it were laid on the table of the House. A grand debate ensued. The episcopal bench mustered strong in defence. Dawes, Archbishop of York, Eastred, of Chester, Smalridge, of Bristol, Atterbury, of Rochester, were supported by the Lords Harcourt, Trevor, North, and Grey, the Duke of Buckingham, and, most active of all, by the Earl of Abingdon. For forty years past, it was urged, no regard had been paid by the university to the birthday of Prince or King by public rejoicing. Illuminations and bonfires were but little suitable to the gravity of a place of learning. The magistrates were ignorant of the occasion, and as for the neglect of bell-ringing, only three out of sixteen colleges had bells to ring. The riots, both on the coronation day and the Prince's birthday, were attributable to the insolence of the soldiers, supported by members of the university "calling themselves the Constitution Club," and to the neglect of the officers. A fling at the Constitutioners completed the ingenious defence. "A certain collegian," it was asserted, "went round the bonfires and encouraged the soldiers to break Hurst's windows, and all that were not illuminated."

It was not hard for Cowper, Sunderland, Townshend, and Parker, to reply to a defence such as this. The university had been forward enough in its rejoicings during the reigns of the Stuarts. The ignorance of the authorities could not be urged after they had been informed by the Major; and so far from the riot being attributable to the officers, it was only by their exertions that a greater disturbance was prevented. The Earl of Abingdon, finding the debate going against him, offered a petition from the Mayor and Magistrates, but it was very properly rejected, as the House was in committee, and the Lords agreed to the following resolutions:—"That the Heads of Houses and the Mayor of the City neglected to make proper rejoicings on the Prince's birthday; that the officers having met to celebrate the day, the house in which they assem-

bled was assaulted and windows broke by the rabble; that this assault was the beginning and occasion of the riots which ensued; that the conduct of the Major was justified by the affidavits; that the printing and publishing the depositions while that matter was under the examination of the Lords of Council, and before any resolution was come to, was irregular, disrespectful to the Prince, and tending to sedition."

In the interval, however, between the riot and these proceedings, which, for the sake of convenience, we have linked together, the Court had taken an opportunity of shewing its resentment by a most contemptuous reception of the address with which the university met the announcement from the Throne of the rebellion in Scotland. It is difficult, indeed, to imagine how the actors in this farce could have kept their countenances. It is probable that among the whole deputation there was scarce one who did not in his heart wish for Mar's success. The Government, well informed of the Jacobite plans, of the preparations for insurrection in the western counties, of the arms and artillery gathering at Bath, of the design to surprise Bristol, could hardly place much confidence in the loyal professions of a place which they were on the point of coercing by military force. Still, so great had been the forbearance of the Administration, that it was with no little surprise that Oxford saw Major-Gen. Pepper's entrance at daybreak at the head of his dragoons. Martial law was at once proclaimed, and the General declared that any student who presumed to appear beyond the limits of their respective colleges should be marched off to military execution. After the seizure of ten or a dozen persons, "among whom was one Lloyd, a coffee-man," and of some horses and furniture, belonging to the notorious traitor, Colonel Owen, and other Jacobites, the soldiers withdrew to Abingdon, and Handyside's regiment of foot was afterwards quartered in Oxford "to overawe the university." The measure, harsh as it was, can hardly be considered an unnecessary one. Derwentwater's rebellion was on the point of breaking out, Oxford men were among his associates, and in the number of those who were taken at Preston, we find Hearne mourning over one "Leonard Walden, a very worthy young gentleman," just fresh from Christ Church, who, after a temporary imprisonment, seems to have taken refuge on the continent, and there to have fallen in a miserable squabble with one Forbes, a fellow refugee. To such ends could a worthless cause lead the noblest and bravest of the youth of England!

The wits of Oxford met this affront with an epigram worthy of a better origin—

King George, observing with judicious eyes
The state of both his universities,
To Oxford sent a troop of horse ; and why ?
That learned body wanted loyalty.
To Cambridge books he sent, as well discerning
How much that loyal body wanted learning.

The authorship of this is, we believe, unknown. The reply which was made with almost equal severity on behalf of Cambridge was attributed to Sir William Browne, the founder of the prize for odes and epigrams in that university, and himself a wit of no mean order—

The King to Oxford sent a troop of horse,
For Tories own no argument but force.
With equal skill to Cambridge books he sent,
For Whigs admit no force but argument.

The books here alluded to were the 30,000 volumes of Bishop Moore's magnificent library which the Crown had purchased at Lord Townsend's suggestion. Cambridge, though cool in comparison with Oxford, was yet Tory in sentiment, and opposed to the domination of the Whigs. She returned in the election of 1715 representatives as anti-Hanoverian as Bromley and Whitlock. Riots took place at Cambridge as at Oxford on the birthdays of the King and the Pretender, windows were broken, and young gowmsmen shouted "No Hanover." But Golgotha was not so blind as at the sister university. Instead of the ingenious logic by which the Oxford Heads thrust the blame on to Whig shoulders, the Vice-Chancellor treated the conduct of the young men as a breach of discipline, and the senate in a formal act sanctioned an address to the Throne, acknowledging King George for their rightful sovereign, and promising so to train up the youth under their charge "that they might shew in their conduct an example of that loyalty and obedience which the university, pursuing the doctrines of the Church, has ever maintained." The doctrine of Non-resistance was an odd one to use in addressing a King who owed his throne to a revolution, but the testimonial was well timed, and the loyalty of Cambridge was rewarded with the present of Bishop Moore's Library.

But the insult to Oxford was resented by measures more weighty, if less provoking, than epigrams. On the suppression of the rebellion, and the conclusion of a triple treaty with France and Holland, addresses poured in from every quarter of the kingdom. "Oxford," smiles the Tory Smollett, "was not so lavish of her compliments." At a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor and Heads of Houses an address was moved to the King. Its grounds are curiously

stated. The suppression of the late rebellion, and the King's safe return from his Hanoverian dominions, were coupled—as a concession to Tory prejudice—with "the favour lately shown the university in omitting, at their request, the ceremony of burning in effigy the Devil, Pope, Pretender, and Earl of Mar, on the anniversary of his Majesty's accession." In spite, however, of such a favour as this, the proposal met with a vehement opposition. The rebellion, Smalridge argued, had been long suppressed ; addresses would have no end were one presented on each return of the King from his German dominions ; the favour so much dwelt upon was more than counterbalanced by the regiment that was quartered on them ; while the remonstrances of the university against the riotous conduct of the troops had been met with contemptuous disregard.

If we are amused at this childish display of an impotent resentment, we cannot, on the other hand, fail to be struck with the great forbearance exhibited by the Government in their dealings with Oxford. Enough has been said of the secret intrigues carried on even by Ministers of the Crown with the Court of St. Germain's, but historians have failed to notice that the lenity which this conduct forced them to exhibit towards those who were more luckless in their intrigues, or more open in their dealings with the exiles, was one of the main causes of the comparative bloodlessness of the many contests which disturbed the throne of the first two Georges. Certain it is, that of this lenity Oxford had more than its share. So long as sedition only trumpeted from its pulpits ; so long as their exertions for the Jacobite cause were confined to treasonable toasts and witty epigrams, the Government stood by inactive. Bellarmine—so merciless to heretics—"allowed," says Southey, "free right of pasture on his corporal domains to fleas. He thought they were created to afford exercise for our patience, and, moreover, that it was unjust to interrupt them in their enjoyment here when they have no other paradise to expect." Oxford divines had no court promotion, no deaneries or sees to look to, and, perhaps, Townshend or Sunderland allowed them in very pity to have their fling. It may be that, like the monks who, every day during the warm season, shake the vermin from their habits into a dungeon beneath, the Hanoverian statesmen were glad to brush off the prejudices and bigotries which, if accumulated elsewhere, might have given them so much trouble, into this antiquated receptacle, and to leave it untouched, as the monks left their's untouched—"La Pulciara"—the Fleaery of England.

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OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XIV.—NEW SERIES.

THOSE who have amused themselves with the riots and disturbances of our former Papers must smile to think how, proudly as our university looks down on its continental rivals, its attitude in the last century recalls the Jena and Heidelberg of 1848. There are the same boisterous disloyalty—the same secret clubs—the same military coercion. Traitors—to give them a harsh name—they immured in their hidden recesses; the beautiful turret, which alone remains to us of old Magdalen Hall, served to conceal Colonel Owen, the seizure of whose horses we have already recorded. The same high and noble sympathies were enlisted in the cause of King James as in the cause of republican liberty, but it must be owned that the German universities—whether from fear or some higher feeling—have shown a disposition towards their political opponents very different from that which the Oxford Tories displayed towards the Oxford Whigs.

During the reign of the first two Georges, Oxford was to a Whig an earthly purgatory. Open resistance to the new family ceased after the first wild outburst of disappointment; and the baffled dons turned with an old-womanish instinct to worry the luckless partisans whom fortune had placed in their hands. The severer weapons of offence were indeed no longer in their power. The days were past when A. Wood could record (Sept. 6, 1683) "Bannimus stuck up to expell Mr. Parkinson from the university for Whiggism, formerly expelled from C.C.C.," and a late expulsion of one of the fellows by a Cambridge college for justifying the execution of King Charles had been annulled by the restoration of their victim. But means of annoyance still re-

mained, as well for the Whig as for the Tory. Degrees were refused to even the most senior applicants. Dr. Wills complained of the strenuous opposition that was offered to the conferring of his degree, "which he obtained at last with much difficulty by a majority of only three or four," and of the refusal of accumulating, which was granted on the same day to an applicant of the other party. "What reasons," blustered a Tory zealot, "have I against him? Did he not decypher the Bishop of Rochester's letters?" The bishop was Atterbury, just exiled on a charge of treason, and whom his sufferings rendered justly dear to his Jacobite friends at the university. The story of Amherst—to whose sketches we owe so much of our knowledge of the time—may prove that this persecution ranged from doctors down to undergraduates. Though there seems little doubt that his conduct was by no means so irreproachable as he represents it, and that he suffered as much for his own misconduct as for his Whig sympathies, yet the side of his Oxford life which he has written for us is too strongly corroborated by every other memorial of the time to be dismissed as a fiction. He sketches vividly enough the hot, ardent boy disputing "with his disaffected schoolfellows on Liberty and Property and the Protestant Succession," poring over the *Flying Post*, and devouring the crowds of controversial pamphlets, "by which means I became so considerable a disputant that I thought myself a match for any Jacobite in the kingdom." He is elected, in the very crisis of Mar's rebellion, to St. John's, "a college the most remarkable in Oxford for as violent a zeal on the contrary side," and he had not been there an hour before the company were

toasting "King James, Ormond, and Mar," and "Confusion to the Usurper." The young Whig declined drinking to the Pretender, whom he was on the morrow to abjure, and proposed the health of King George. He was charged with "an affront to the company," and set down in the eyes of all honest men as "turbulent, contumacious, ungovernable, and an undutiful son of the university." The young "freshman" seems to have had an Irishman's love of a row; if there was one thing in Oxford worse than the being a Whig it was the being a Low Churchman, and Amherst took part with Hoadley in the famous Bangorian controversy only to add to his other titles that of "Arian, infidel, and atheist." It was in vain that head and tutors remonstrated; he enrolled himself in the Constitution Club, and was whispered to be the author of the bitterest of the Whig pamphlets and epigrams. His probation came at last to a close; ten out of fourteen fellows voted against him for his fellowship, and his four supporters in turn came in for the penalties of insubordination. One lost his living, two were long denied testimonials for orders, and it was rumoured that another, before he could obtain his degree, had to declare that he abhorred Amherst's person and principles.

But the most systematic and persevering instance of Tory persecution was directed against the Constitution Club. We have already described the riots of the 26th of May, 1716. On that evening the Club, with several officers of Handysides' regiment, were drinking loyal healths at the King's Head, regardless of the squibs or hooting of the crowd without. About eleven the Pro-proctor, Mr. Holt, of Magdalen, entered to demand the reason of their presence at a tavern at so late an hour. Meadowcourt, of Merton, who was in the chair, replied that they were met to commemorate the restoration of King Charles and the accession of King George, and invited the Proctor to join him in drinking the health of the latter. It was impossible, with any appearance of loyalty, to refuse; but the jest was an imprudent one. The offender was summoned next day to the Proctor. He was treated to a tirade against the Constitution Club—"the most profligate fellows in Oxford, who deserved to be expelled for pretending to have more loyalty than the rest of the university. Who were this handful of men," thundered the indignant official, "that they should venture to set themselves up in a place where there were notoriously ten Tories to one Whig?" Meadowcourt was fined, and his name, with that of his companions, put down in the Proctorial Black Book, in spite of the intercession of influential friends. They were charged

in that formidable record with "profaning with mad intemperance" the sacred anniversary of the Restoration; with associating "with those who insolently boast of their loyalty to King George;" with abetting "certain officers who ran up and down the High Street with their swords drawn;" and "with breaking out to that degree of impudence" at the Proctor's admonition to withdraw, "as to command all the company to drink King George's health." For these and other charges they were suspended from their degrees for different periods, and at whose expiration an abject apology was required. This was refused, and the culprits took advantage of the King's Act of Grace, which wiped off all offences, to stand for their degrees. Mr. Meadowcourt was thrice denied his M.A.; and on the third trial it was granted only because the refuser would then have had to allege his reasons for such a proceeding. In spite of these penalties the Constitution Club advanced in numbers and influence. While the Vice-Chancellors were sneering at it in the Theatre, and a Proctor was describing its members to Convocation as "villains hateful to heaven and to men," they boasted of the presidency of Dr. Gardiner, the head of All Souls', and of the adhesion of the more aristocratic members of the university. It was impossible to arrest the steady growth of more loyal principles, and the disgust which was felt at the mad threat of one of the Proctors, "that no Constitutioner should take his degree" during his year of office, was a sign that in this burst of vapouring Toryism open persecution had at last reached its close.

The petty but perhaps more annoying vexations which Whigs were exposed to in their social intercourse with their opponents lasted probably much longer. Hearne glories in the exclusion of Mr. Moseley from the club of "the High Borlace," on the mere pretext that he was a Merton man. "Oxford," exclaimed a Tory professor who had wandered to London, "is a learned and blameless society." "What," said a friend, "are there no abuses, debauchery, disloyalty, or perjury there?" "None at all," replied the doctor. "No!" rejoined his questioner, "not in Merton College, Sir?" "Hum," quoth his professorship, "yes, really, I have heard of strange doings there!" Merton, in fact, was regarded by both parties as the centre and rallying-point of the Whigs. Three of its fellows were among "the associates of the red coats," who, with Meadowcourt, experienced the discipline of the Black Book. A Merton Proctor, Mr. Streat, who with his Pro.'s was commemorating the coronation of the King in a tavern, on the evening of that anni-

versary, which chanced to be Sunday, was pounced upon by the Vice-Chancellor, "who walked the street that evening," and "dismissed forth to the great reluctance—to be sure—of Streat and his friends," chuckles Hearne. Wadham, Exeter, and Christ Church were tainted with the same political spirit in a less degree. The Deans who succeeded Atterbury and Smalridge were carefully selected by the Court from among its staunchest adherents. On the King's birthday, in 1727, "Mr. Jonathan Colley, being chaunter of Christ Church, set a penitential anthem, which enraged the Dean, Dr. Bradshaw, so that after service he sent for and reprimanded him." Gibson, the head of Queen's, was a Whig as well by conviction as by his marriage with a grand-daughter of the Protector Cromwell's. There were indeed many exceptions; Johnson, years after, praised Panting, the Master of Pembroke, as a "fine Jacobite fellow;" but the Toryism of the Heads was lukewarm when compared with the Toryism of the Undergraduates.

The "Freshman," who arrived at Oxford with a head full of loyal traditions, a hatred of Oliver, Jack Presbyter, and the Whigs, had little to encourage him to a change of sentiments. He saw the few Whigs outlawed, discountenanced, and jeered at, scouted by the society of their college, disqualified for preferment, visited with the utmost severity on the most trifling breach of discipline. He evades the oath of allegiance—as he thinks—by kissing his thumb instead of the book, or perhaps, by favour of an "honest" headle, has not the book given him at all. He drinks to "Betty of Hearts" with his tutor, and passes his wine duly over the water-bottle. He has a knack of rhyming, and his satirical verses on the Whig head, whose zeal had so carefully erased the treasonable initials (as they seemed) "J. R.," from the velvet cushion only to discover that he had destroyed the initials of the donor (Jeremy Raymond) are laughed at in the coffee houses, and applauded by the wits. Or, perhaps of a rougher turn of mind, he sits over a pipe and a bottle with "some jovial blades of All Souls," when, espying some foreigners in the quad, the company jump out of window, pelt them out of college, and stand hooting before their lodgings for a couple of hours, "d——n all strangers, especially French and Hanoverians," and swearing "they would have their blood before they went away."

Indeed "a foreigner" was as fearful a bogie to these educated gentlemen as to the veriest bumpkin in Stubbleshire. If he entered a Oxford coffee-house, the doctor whom he accosted had no reply for him but a cool "Yes, sir," or "No, sir;" and the company round stared at him, and swore that by his assurance he must be an Hanoverian. If he walked through the streets, rumours instantly flew about, a mob gathered at his heels, and he was fortunate if he escaped without a broken head. If he complained to the authorities, he was probably told that the gentlemen were in liquor, and obliged to content himself without even an apology.

In one respect, doubtless, the Tory "freshman" was more commendable than his successor of the present day. He was regular in his attendance at the university sermons. But the motives which drew him to St. Peter's or St. Mary's were not so much those of religion as of amusement and fear. If he absented himself, he was liable to a lecture from his tutor; and the Proctor, if he caught him strolling in the High during sermon time, was prompt with an imposition. If he attended, the dry topics of theology were sure to be so enlivened with a spice of treason or a gird at the Whigs. Sometimes an entertaining scene would divert the audience. When Wyatt, the Principal of St. Mary Hall, thundered against the perfidy and Whiggery of the Scots, Archibald Campbell, the son of Argyle, who happened to be one of the audience, "did accost Mr. Wyatt when he came out of the pulpit, and did in a most egregious manner abuse him in the face of the people, and called him 'red-faced sot.'" Among the preachers whose sermons "smacked of treason" we find no less a name than John Wesley. "My brother," says Charles, in 1734, "has been much mauled and threatened more for his Jacobite sermon on the 16th of June. But he was wise enough to get the Vice-Chancellor to read and approve it before he preached it, and may therefore bid Wadham, Merton, Exeter, and Christ Church do their worst." Some were not so fortunate. Mr. Coningsby was summoned before the Vice-Chancellor for a sermon whose sedition seems to have consisted in inuendoes, and suspended for two years, but Hearne's comment is remarkable—"I am told it was a good honest discourse, and that all were attentive, without the least smile, as often happens when any stinging passage comes in a sermon."

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OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XV.—NEW SERIES.

MORE remarkable in its tone, however, than any of the sermons which we have noticed, was one delivered by the then Professor of Poetry, the elder Warton, on May 28, 1719. The obvious parallel between the First Charles and his deposed son was dexterously used to point the covert allusions of the preacher, and the fidelity of Oxford dwelt upon as an example in times of similar difficulty. "Justice," ended the Professor, with a slight perversion of the words of St. Paul, "Justice beareth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, restoreth all things," and the emphasis on the word "restoreth" left no doubt of the meaning of this clerical pun. Men praised it as the boldest, and as the most guarded sermon that had ever been heard at Oxford; the Masters waved their caps to the preacher as he passed through them out of church, and his health was drunk in every common-room. The challenge, however, was too bold a one not to be taken up by the Whigs. Meadowcourt charged the sermon with sedition, and demanded that Warton's notes might be examined, but the Vice-Chancellor refused. The charge was laid before Craggs, at that time Secretary of State, and the Lords Justices, in the King's absence, commanded the Vice-Chancellor to proceed against the preacher. He was summoned, but as notice had been privately given him, the notes were prudently lost. The only result of the Government interference was that in his Commemoration speech, the Vice-Chancellor branded Meadowcourt as a "turbulentus delator,"—"a troublesome informer,"—and alluded to the Council as "a foreign jurisdiction."

That the Government should interfere, and that in a harsher and more summary manner, had been already suggested by many wise and judicious men. We have already noticed the advice which Locke gave to King William, and in 1719 Archbishop

Wake was earnest for the introduction of a bill for the assertion of the royal supremacy and the better regulation of the clergy of the two Universities. Lord Macclesfield went further than a mere suggestion or desire. In a formal memorial he embodied his plan for the reformation of the Universities, and it is, in some points, so characteristic of the age, that we may be pardoned for entering a little into detail. The election of Heads was henceforward to be vested in the great Officers of State, with the concurrence of the Visitor and the Bishop. The Fellowships were to be limited in duration to twenty years, to prevent that long continuance in college which leads only "to their being overrun with spleen, or taking to sottishness." Conciliation was to be attempted by the founding of Professorships, and the gift of pensions of "£20 or £30 per annum," to about twenty fellows of colleges "to encourage them to serve the government with their pupils and others." The system of bribery, which Walpole found so effective in St. Stephen's, was to be tried in Oxford. The benefices of the Crown and the nobility were to be bestowed only "on well-affected persons." The Government was advised to "extend its care and kindness in an especial manner to those colleges in which honest" ('tis amusing to see this last word the shuttlecock of both parties) "in which honest and loyal men have an interest," both by bestowing livings and the like, and by the removal of the discontented "till the true interest in them was become superior to all opposition."

Wise, however, as some of these suggestions might be, the government preferred—and wisely preferred—inaction. It was not till within ten years of the accession of George the Third, when the House of Brunswick, after the suppression of the "Forty-five," felt itself at length secure upon the throne, that measures of severity were resorted to.

But the opportunity which was chosen, was by no means a happy one. Two or three riotous young students dropped some treasonable expressions over their cups, and boasted of their attachment to the House of Stuart. No sooner had the report of this spread abroad, than the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors—apprehensive of the result—published a declaration of their abhorrence of seditious practices, their resolution to punish such offences with the utmost rigour, and containing peremptory orders for the regulation of the University. The Government, however, was not to be diverted from its purpose. A messenger of state was despatched to arrest "the three boys," two of whom were, after trial in the Court of King's Bench, found guilty, and sentenced to walk through the Courts of Westminster with an account of their crime fixed on their foreheads, to pay a fine of five nobles each, be imprisoned for two years, and find security for seven years more. This ridiculously disproportionate sentence was followed up by other acts of rigour. The King's Bench granted an information against the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Purnell, for his behaviour in the matter, but the rule was eventually countermanded. It was attempted to subject the whole of the statutes to the revision of the Privy Council, but, after an argument in the Court of King's Bench, this attempt, in deference to the judge's opinion, was also countermanded. The cry of Jacobitism was, however, still clamoured against the University, and its address, on the re-establishment of peace, was rejected with disdain.

Meanwhile Cambridge was displaying a fulsome spirit of flattery rather than loyalty. Its Chancellorship fell vacant, and, though generally expected to have been reserved for the Prince of Wales, who was then in opposition, was bestowed on that most ignorant and ridiculous of mortals, the Premier, the Duke of Newcastle. The prosecutions of 1748 afforded another opportunity of "supporting the throne," and Mason, then a promising young poet, bid high for preferment by the publication of his "Isis." In an invidious comparison, he contrasted the loyalty of Cambridge with the disaffection of its sister University. At Oxford he bids us

"See Hydra Faction spread its impious reign,
Poison each breast and madden every brain;
Hence frontless crowds, that not content to fright
The blushing Cynthia from her throne of night,
Blast the fair face of day; and madly bold
To freedom's foes infernal orgies hold;
To freedom's foes, ah, see the goblet crowned!
Hear plausive shouts to freedom's foes resound."

But he does not omit a tribute to the few Whig Abdiels, "faithful only found,"—

"Learning, that once to all diffused her beam,
Now sheds by stealth a partial private gleam;
In some low cloister's melancholy shade
Where a firm few support her sickly head,
Despised, insulted by the barbarous train
Who scour like Thracia's moon-struck rout the plain,
Sworn foes like them to all the muse approves,
All Phoebus favours, or Minerva loves!"

To us the satire seems of the dullest and most vapid kind, but its author, as we learn from an amusing anecdote, thought very differently. Years after the elegy had been published, and (we should think) forgotten, Mason was entering Oxford on horseback, and, as he passed Magdalen-bridge, he turned to his companion to express his satisfaction that the darkness of the evening would allow them to enter the town unnoticed. His friend was puzzled to conjecture what the advantage of this could be, "What," rejoined the poet, "do you not remember my 'Isis!'"

Whatever was the extent of Mason's vanity or timidity, it is seldom that the victor bears a grudge against the vanquished, and victorious Oxford had some off on this occasion, thanks to the genius of a young scholar of Trinity, the son of that Tom Warton whom we mentioned at the commencement of this Paper. This younger Tom Warton was doubtless then, what he remained to the end of his life, a singular combination of the scholar and the buffoon, the hard-reader and deep-drinker. He lounged and sauntered all day, and spent the early hours, when his comrades slept, for classical and antiquarian study. He was a poet in the morning, strolling, full of fancies, along the Cherwell, or up Headington-hill, or standing, lost to all but his thoughts, before the ancient gateway of Magdalen College. At night he was the first of boon companions, punning and jesting in common-room, or drinking his ale and smoking his pipe in the lowest pot-house, "with persons," as his biographer primly puts it, "of mean rank and condition." There was little poetical in the appearance of this "little, thick, squat, red-faced man," as a satirist describes him, with a stutter that prevented all but his friends from understanding him, and "a gobble," as Johnson said, "like a turkey cock." But poet, notwithstanding, he was, and, in picturesqueness of description, inferior to few among his rivals. The lines in which he invokes the time-honoured temples and shrines of Oxford to inspire their defender against this unprovoked assailant have never been excelled by a poet of twenty-two, and such was the age of their author. Nor was he wanting in a vigorous vein of sarcasm—

"Let Granta boast the patrons of her name—
Each splendid fool of fortune or of fame :
Still of preferment let her shine the Queen,
Prolific parent of each bowing Dean ;
Be hers each prelate of the pampered cheek,
Each courtly chaplain, sanctified and sleek,
Still let the drones of her exhaustless hive
On rich pluralities supinely thrive."

There was a ring in lines like these that made his poem in very deed "The Triumph of Isis." He was less successful in his compliment to the Jacobite Dr. King, whose oration at the opening of the Radcliffe had roused a thousand charges of disloyalty—

"See, on yon sage, how all attentive stand,
To catch his darting eye and waving hand ;
Hush, he begins with all a Tully's art
To pour the dictates of a Cato's heart ;
Skilled to pronounce what noblest thoughts inspire,
He blends the speaker's with the patriot's fire ;
Bold to conceive, nor timorous to conceal,
What Britons dare to think he dares to tell."

The sage of these lines was too notable a Jacobite to be passed over in these Papers without notice. Principal of St. Mary's Hall, and, by turns, secretary to Ormond and Arran, a keen satirist and a most amusing wit, he contrived to trifle his great gifts away (like the predecessor in his name who waged war against Bentley, and, though conquered, made the world laugh at his conqueror) in the mean contests of party, or rather of faction. "Imprudens et improvidus," it was thus he wrote of himself, "comis et benevolus, aspe æquo iracundior, haud usquam ut essem implacabilis—ipse et sibi parvus et vini parcissimus, cum magis vixi, cum plebeis, cum omnibus, ut homines noscerem—ut meipsum imprimis—neque etiam novi !" "A pleasant, kind-hearted fellow, often angry beyond measure, but never too stubborn to be appeased, a temperate diner, still more temperate in his cups—I have lived with the lofty, with the lowly, with every one in short, that I might gain a knowledge of men and of myself, and yet this last knowledge I have never gained." Contented with the laugh with which men welcomed every scrap from his humorous pen, he gave up literature for politics, but he retained a kindly feeling towards the young aspirants who enlisted under the standard he had deserted. We can yet see the "tall, lean, well-looking man" reading, in the shop of Prince, the bookseller, with a smile of pleasure this eulogium from an unknown hand, and then—no idle thought in an age of Johnsons and Savages—inquiring whether five guineas

would be of any service to the author, and leaving the donation with the publisher. He was at this time in communication with the Pretender, the head, it might almost be said, of the English Jacobites, yet truer than ever were his words—he knew not himself. When the third of the Georges mounted the throne, and Dr. King accompanied the address, the party he had led turned upon him as the Protectionists turned upon Sir Robert Peel. The end of his life was embittered with charges of "apostacy" from his old supporters. "He knew not himself," but he might have urged with equal truth that the University to which he belonged was just as ignorant. Its eyes were soon to open. Tory principles mounted the throne with George the Third, and the current of royal favour was at once diverted to the Tory University; Jacobitism disappeared like a dream. The Cardinal of York was sneered at as a pretender. The zeal that had backed the most odious of causes was needed now to back the new king in the most odious of wars—the war with America. Deaneries and Bishoprics fell in a shower among the Heads, and a stream of addresses—against Wilkes, against Catholic Emancipation, against anything in short that the King hated, evinced the gratitude of the University. As Dryden sang years before—

"The court of Constantine was full of glory,
And every trimmer turned addressing Tory."

We pause, however, at this beginning of a new reign, this striking revolution in the position of Oxford towards the Crown, because the chain of events which we have been tracking ends abruptly here. In future Papers we may perhaps resume the tale of Tory Oxford under the two last of the Georges, but of Jacobite Oxford under the two first the tale is ended. If the story has nothing but what is mean, and petty, and trivial, if Jacobitism in Oxford had no Prestons or Cullodens to prove the sincerity of its loyalty ; if its "honesty" began and ended in grumbling, while the heads of braver and truer men were mouldering on Temple Bar, there is something even in this childish obstinacy, this ineffective resentment, above the level, uninterrupted sycophancy which was to follow it. The tale, at any rate, is new and curious ; it has never, so far as we know, been attempted before, and if this brief sketch has served in any way to illustrate it, we shall have gained some fresh knowledge of an hitherto untold side of the History of Oxford during the Last Century.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XVI.—NEW SERIES.

THOSE who are at all conversant with authorship know that sketches of a period, such as those which we have endeavoured to produce, must often be constructed from the most heterogeneous materials. The pamphlet, the libel, the broadsheet, must in turn be ransacked by one who would picture the social life of the time. The writer must resemble the alchemist, and extract gold from the very vilest materials. And this for the very obvious reason that his search is for those very details which such chance productions alone preserve to us. That common, daily life, which he is endeavouring to disentomb, seems to those who partake of it so mean and worthless in its lesser circumstances that they would think it ridiculous to chronicle it in their graver and more serious histories. And so the generations who succeed, if they would learn not merely how their forefathers fought and died, but how they walked, were dressed, eat, drank, spoke, laughed, or swore, must turn into the "bye-ways" of literature, and melt down in their crucible the libels of the wit, or the play-book of the child.

The little volume which we intend to submit to this process for the edification of our readers in the present paper is of the latter character. "The Young Travellers, or a Visit to Oxford," by a Lady, is just the sort of book which sage parents put into the hands of those who have attained the enviable title of "good boys." The parents are all benevolent, affable, and prosy: the children—what children never were or will be. They listen with the utmost interest to the dullest lectures on moral questions, and, full of their own unquestioning obedience, doubt not that every little boy who utters those tabeoad syllables, "I won't," is destined to be drowned, buried alive, or devoured by tigers. They have a horror of marbles and mud-pies, and a great love for the society of sententious old gentlemen,

who might be their grandfathers. In short the book is of the usual stamp of the child-books of our own youth, and is inspired with just that amount of untrue as well as ridiculous morality which is usually thought wholesome for developing philosophers, still unbreeched. It is full, however, of interesting details of a time which we may call the borderland, between this century and the last, and its notices, combined with the information we have been enabled to draw from other quarters, may enable us to realize in some measure that phase of Oxford life, on which, as yet, we have not ventured, the *Life of the Streets*.

We pass into Oxford by the great London road, with a glance at the row of old tumble-down houses, a disgrace to the city, which ran along from the gate of the Botanic Gardens, and turned down what is now the open side of Rose Lane. Before one of these, on its high pole, hangs out the sign of the Noah's Ark, and the host (one Hodges) is busy clearing his doorway of one of the noisiest scamps in the town, that prince among poachers, Dan Stewart. Fish and game were Dan's legitimate property; there was not a cover or a preserve in the county whose merits he was not well acquainted with; and so high was his reputation for a knowledge of "sport," that he was generally selected by freshmen as their guide on piscatory excursions. The joke ran that he was as invariably successful in directing them to spots perfectly free from fish of any size, as he was in securing a bagful when he sallied out alone. Dan, however, is at present haranguing, as is his wont, blind-drunk in the street, and a crowd gathers round to laugh at the blasphemies which proceed so fluently from his lips. Dan is but one amid a host of ruffians who infested the streets—ruffians, such as the blustering drunkard whom the children call "Captain Ward," who comes raving up street at the moment, with eyes bearing traces

of many encounters, abusing every one he meets, and offering them satisfaction in a fight for a pot of beer.

The children, however, leave these two worthies to run over to the old cakeman beneath the elms of Magdalen Horse-walk, where two or three Magdalen school-boys are already lounging, hesitating between his "rosy apples and sugared cakes." Dicky Dunker, however, finds a formidable rival in old Mother Smith, who passes by with her basket full of buns, and her shrill cry of "any cakes and rolls, muffins and crumpets;" and in Tippetty Ward's cakes, "all sugar and brandy," as the vendor describes them. Tippetty, we may remark in passing, was a very notable Oxford character, whose father had lived in the great farmhouse with the trees in its front below the Infirmary, which was subsequently burnt down, and whose site is now occupied by Pearse's-row. Street-cries, which we so seldom hear now, were in these days no insignificant feature of Oxford streets, and Monday morning in particular seldom failed to bring round the old woman with her bag across her shoulder, and her cry of "old boots and old shoes," with whom extravagant servant-galism (so said the mistresses) was glad to effect exchange of less useful finery. Another member of the mercantile fraternity of the streets was "poor Jack the matchman," in his long coat and slouched hat, who still figures in West's picture of "The Death of General Wolfe," as the soldier who, leaning on his musket, is casting a last look of affection on his dying leader. Fame, however, had not saved Jack from penury, and his present resource was that of vending those old-fashioned matches which lucifers have driven out of use. A more poetical traffic was that of the far-famed Mother Goose, who, sitting at the Star Gate, in her heavy cloak, ruffled cap, and trim little hat, was ready to curtsy a welcome to the coaches as they rolled up one after another, and to present her basket of flowers to "pretty ladies" within. She was a great favourite with university men, who christened her "Flora;" but she did business now and then with nobler customers than these. When the Regent passed through on his way to Bibury Races, it was his custom to change horses at the Lamb and Flag, so as to avoid the crowd and confusion which his changing them at the Star would have created, and as Mother Goose never failed to appear with her usual offering, the kind-hearted voluptuary would take one of her bouquets and fling her a guinea. We may be sure no one in Oxford cried "God save the Regent" with more loyalty than Mother Goose.

If we turn from the streets to the Broad Walk we may encounter a greater character even than

Mother Goose, in the person of "Counsellor Bickerton," attired in his shabby gown, and dilapidated cap, with enormous curled wig and band, haranguing up and down, without consciousness of observers. He had been a member of Hertford College, where, spite of all efforts to get rid of him, he still claimed rooms, and was so miserably poor that he was said to cut branches from the trees in the quad for fuel. On one occasion, said the wits, he quietly severed the branch on which he sat, and came to the ground. He was the usual butt of these wits, and one (a Mr. Tawney, we believe of Exeter) published "The Luccubrations of Counsellor Bickerton." The Counsellor was not offended, but entered the publisher's shop, and seriously proposed a share in the division of the profits in recompense for the liberty taken with his name! His habits were as singular as his ideas. Fancying himself the Principal of Hertford, he thought it inconsistent with his dignity to rise before noon, or retire to rest before daybreak. His favourite mania, however, was the Law. Dubbing himself a barrister, he carried everywhere in his pocket a portentous wig, which was drawn forth and donned whenever he supposed himself called on to speak. At a meeting of the Bible Society when the business was over, and the audience on the point of dispersing, the poor enthusiast clapped on his wig, mounted one of the benches, and astonished his hearers with an oration, which, for once, displayed a trifle of sense and lucidity. His exhibitions, however, were sometimes more ludicrous. A barrister, he very justly argued, should "go circuit." Accordingly, a battered post chaise was purchased; its shafts altered to suit a single horse; and in this vehicle the Counsellor followed the Judges, and offered his services to any client that required them. As none, however, came forward, it was his custom to rise and censure in a lengthy speech, the conduct of the judge, jury, prosecutor, and defendant alike, till expelled from the court.

"Great wit from madness what thin bounds divide," says Dryden, and the occasional eccentricities of the strong-headed Dr. Tatham not unfrequently rivalled the exploits of poor Bickerton. It was his own sober opinion that to him, and him alone, was owing the overthrow of Buonaparte, and the consequent glory of Great Britain. The Bank, he said, refused Pitt advances, and the war must have dropped, had not a pamphlet of his own, advocating the establishment of a rival bank, frightened the old lady of Threadneedle-street into a loan—the war was continued, and the usurper overthrown. More notable, however, was his celebrated sermon

on Oxford education, a discourse of an hour and three-quarters, whose excessive length drove even a prelate, who was among his auditors, out of church from sheer fatigue. It was a vehement attack on what he termed the Aristotelian mode of education at Oxford, and, in many respects, a just one. "You profess to educate the youth of the country," he argued, "but your students require a visit to continental capitals to complete their education." He proposed the introduction of modern languages and history, and seems, in some of his suggestions, to have been a reformer before his age. He was probably the last punster in an university pulpit. "What with your little-goes and your great-goes, I fear education will give you the by-go," said the indignant doctor. But if he was an ardent reformer he was none the less an ardent Tory, and when the Oxford volunteers, who mustered at the time 800 strong, were drawn up on review, in two divisions, Dr. Tatham rode along their ranks, promising to pension the widow of the first man who fell in his country's cause. As volunteering is revived, we record this promise of the doctor's as a hint to its encouragers.

We have not space enough to dwell in very great detail on the little fragments of our local history which we have gleaned. We can only notice "the Linen Draper" of Oxford, a person named Smith,

whose shop was on Carfax, and who seems to have had so complete a monopoly of his trade, that when he went out he could afford to lock up his shop; if a customer came in during his dinner-hour, he was requested to call again, and during his annual journey to London to make purchases, the shop was closed for a week until his return—as an evidence of the great revolution which has been created by competition in trades. Or we can glance at Atkins, the City Marshal, strutting about in his laced hat and coat, and carrying his long staff, with the city arms painted on its top, with all the self-importance of beadlehood. Or passing, as the quarter boys strike eight in the morning, at Carfax, we may see "Little Dickey James" passing in to read early prayers, whose diminutive stature had made him the subject of a few practical jokes. The fall of one of the quarter-boys soon produced an advertisement, in which "the Little Doctor" (as, though but M.A., he was generally called) was made to announce his intention of offering himself as a candidate for the post. Or we may meet "Johnny," the Oriel messenger, scudding along on his crutches faster than ordinary legs could carry him; or Barber Dennet, with apron and tongs, proceeding to decorate the gentlemen's heads before their dinner hour. But these and other topics we may touch on a future occasion.

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OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XVII.—NEW SERIES.

IN our sketches of the Smart of the Last Century we had occasion to introduce Amherst's picture of the farmer of the time, in his "lindsey wolzey coat, greasy sunburnt head of hair, clouted shoes, yarn stockings, flapping hats with silver hat-bands, and long muslin neckcloths run with red at the bottom." Figures like these were the jest of every wit who paraded the High; fops lisped out their sneers at the "Aborigines," and their very sons, "metamorphosed into complete Smarts, d—d the old pests, their fathers with twenty foppish airs and gesticulations." The severance between town and country was indeed a marked feature of the earlier part of the century which we are treating. To the writers of the *Spectator* school a farmer was but a synonym for a mixture of ignorance and excess; novelists, like Fielding in his "Squire Western," depicted him as a compound of passion and brutality, whose oaths alternated with his potations. Even Swift, writing soberly to Pope, says—"In how few hours with a swift horse or a strong jade may a man come among a people as unknown to him as the Antipodes." The ignorance was reciprocated by the rustic of the country. A stranger from London was looked upon as a Whig in disguise; the vicar declared him "no churchman," and hinted his suspicions of "no religion at all."

The causes of this great severance have been partially noticed before. First among them was the condition of the roads. About 1760 "the roads of Oxfordshire," says an accurate observer, "were in a condition formidable to the bones of all who travelled on wheels. The two great turnpikes which crossed the country by Witney and Chipping Norton, by Henley and Wycombe, were repaired in some places with stones as large as they could be brought from the quarry, and, when broken, left so rough as to be calculated for dislocation rather than

exercise." The heavy stage waggons, whose broad wheels alone made an impression on these formidable masses, were stopped for days or weeks by floods and snow. Bridges were scarce, save in the vicinity of towns, and lighter vehicles often found themselves exposed to serious danger in crossing the fords. Pope, who often passed through Oxford on his way to Colonel Dormer's, nearly lost his life through an accident of this kind. His carriage was overturned, and the poor poet, at the last moment, had to be dragged through its windows. The country lanes were, of course, incomparably worse. "The cross roads," says our informant, "were impassible but with real danger." The neighbouring farmers' horses had often to be borrowed to drag the luckless voyagers out of these Sloughs of Despond. Sometimes, as in the case of the Prince of Orange, it became necessary to make a flank march through the farmers' fields. The latter part of the century saw the almost total abolition of this great obstacle to national inter-communication. "A noble change," writes Young, in 1809, "has taken place, but generally by turnpikes which cross the country in every direction, so that when you are at one town you have a turnpike road to every other town. This holds good with Oxford, Woodstock, Witney, Burford, Chipping Norton, Banbury, Bicester, Thame, Abingdon, Wallingford, Henley, Reading, &c., &c., and in every direction, and these lines necessarily intersect the country in every direction. The parish roads are greatly improved, but are still capable of much more. The turnpikes are very good, and, where gravel is to be had, excellent." Along these roads rolled hundreds of coaches, whose superiority to the speed of all previous means of locomotion was as great as is the superiority of steam to their own. That great array of mail coaches in front of the Post Office on the first of May, a spectacle on which De

Quincey, in his autobiography, dwells with such delight, was suggestive of something more than material progress. To every thoughtful observer they must have seemed the great weapons by which England was gathering up her severed parts into one united whole; which were knitting town to country, and country to town; which were bringing rural honesty and truth and fearlessness to bear upon the social depravity of the metropolis, and carrying the civilization of the metropolis to the most secluded districts of the country.

Another great obstacle, to which this century did not apply any efficient remedy, arose from the multitudes of highwaymen who infested the roads. We have already dwelt upon the daring exploits which made these ruffians the heroes at once of the ladies' closet and the thieves' gin-cellar; and, in our account of Dumas, have striven to realize, as much as possible, the life and adventures of one of the fraternity. But, besides the element of romance, and the longing for "plunder," which made "the road" so fashionable a profession, an additional inducement to crime seems to have been afforded by its comparative security. Here and there, indeed, individual travellers, like Mr. Stanley, might carry weapons and make a fight for it, and it is due to the prudence of the Dick Turpins of this time to own that in such cases they shewed the utmost facility in running away, or a correspondence with their Sultanas fell into the hands of inquisitive inn-keepers, or an encounter with a personage of high rank set the Bow-street runners on them; but, for the most part, the plunderers were unmolested. Hair-dressers and tailors, for these were the trades that furnished most recruits to the host of the highway, had nothing to do but to buy a pistol out of their master's till, steal the best horse in the neighbourhood, and levy black-mail on whom they would. If travellers run scarce, or the road became dangerous, it was easy to assemble a gang of a dozen, and break into a farmhouse or a rectory. The newspapers of the time are crowded with outrage, such as these. If secured, ladies visited the hero in prison, and petitioned for his pardon, while the ruined walls, and confederates within and without, offered every opportunity for escape. Under such circumstances, it is no wonder that people, convinced of the inefficacy of the law, began to take the question of Police into their own hands. "Divers felonies and depredations," says an advertisement in the *Oxford Journal*, for 1783, "having been lately made and committed on the persons and property of the Inhabitants of Oxford, its suburbs, and neighbourhood, it has been resolved to promote an as-

sociation for a joint protection of the subscribers, and for prosecuting all persons guilty of Felonies committed upon any of the members of the said association, as well as for rewarding such persons as shall give information, apprehend, or bring to conviction any offender or offenders." The Mayor for the time being was, by the rules, constituted Treasurer, and associated in committee with fourteen other members, Mr. Ald. Tawney, Mr. Ald. Tongue, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Morrell, Mr. Taunton, Mr. Shortland, Mr. Lock, Mr. Burford, Mr. James Fletcher, jun., Mr. John Walker, Mr. Thomas Prickett, Mr. Francis Gurden, and the Bailiffs of the city. For the detection of a burglar or incendiary, a reward of ten guineas was offered; half that sum was given for the discovery of a highway or a foot robber, or a receiver of stolen goods; and smaller sums in proportion for crimes of less consequence. No compromise with persons arrested was to be allowed, and the prosecutor's share of all rewards, given by Act of Parliament, was to be added to the premium offered by the society for their apprehension. A similar association was formed, with still higher rewards, by "gentlemen, farmers, and others, in the neighbourhood of Abingdon." Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire seem to have combined for the purpose, and the organization, as we find from advertisements, spread rapidly over all the neighbouring counties. How little terror these announcements caused among the fraternity, we may see from the following item of Oxford news, for February 28, 1784. "Between seven and eight o'clock last Monday evening, one of the Bath coaches was robbed upon the galloping ground above Botley, about two miles and a-half from this city, by two men on foot, who took from the passengers upwards of £24 in money, with their watches. But at the request of the driver, they returned all the watches except one, and went off with their booty. There were six passengers in the coach, and two outsides."

We need not stop to dwell on the subsidiary causes which hindered intercourse between country and town, but, in these days of tourist and excursion trains, it is impossible to avoid the mention of one. Nothing, perhaps, can be considered a stronger characteristic of our own age than the taste for scenery which has been diffused through every grade of society. Prince and peasant alike hurry from home on every chance interval of leisure, and deem themselves abundantly repaid for trouble and expense by the view of a mountain, or a peep at a waterfall. But this perception of the picturesque, this intense relish for natural beauty was denied to our forefathers. The very phrases which they

habitually employ to characterise scenes of surpassing sublimity were such as "a horrid grandeur," or a "rugged waste." Men of taste were no better than their fellows. Goldsmith, who saw the perfection of rural beauty in the flat meadows and sluggish canals of Holland, could see in Scotland nothing but frightful precipices and bare and savage solitudes. It may be said that to this time was left the task of discovering the sublimity of Snowden or Ben Nevis, or the picturesque beauty of the Lakes. A poet of the last age might sing of nightingales and sunrise, but his very expressions betray that he had never heard the one or seen the other. He might play at pastorals with Phyllis and Corydon, but his Phyllises wore red-heeled shoes, and his Corydons wielded the dice box. The essayists of this time found no subject more amusing than the disgust of a man upon town at the humdrum monotony of a country life. Sir John with his long stories over the bottle, Lady Prue with her genealogies and embroidery, the daughters with their hoydenish familiarities and hands fresh from pudding-making, the sons with their eternal dog and gun, were terrible bores to the Exquisite who had supped with Selwyn or gambled with March.

We cannot, however, turn away with these from this simple life of the country. We shall follow

these farmers as they trot homewards, and get what scanty glimpses we can of their life and manners, of their system of cultivation, and the great changes, in the modes of farming which were at this time gradually introduced. In the course of this task we shall doubtless often have to crave the indulgence of our readers. The details of a farmer's system require a special knowledge which we cannot claim to possess, and the materials which are at our command are far too scanty to enable us to give the full account which we should desire. We can, however, but attempt the task, praying in the merry words of old Tugger—

" And grant me now,
Good reader, thou !
Of terms to use,
Such choice to choose,
As may delight
The country wight,
And knowledge bring ;

For such do praise
The country phrase,
The country acts,
The country facts,
The country toys,
Before the joys
Of any thing."

[In this article a slight repetition of a fact or two that appeared in the First Series will be observed, arising from a change in the authorship of the papers.—Ed.]

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XVIII.—NEW SERIES.

THE character of the Oxfordshire farmer experienced a remarkable change during the progress of the last century. The great spread of education, the variations in the mode of culture, the closer ties by which country began to be bound to town, all tended to improve and civilize them. "Enclosing," says Arthur Young, at the end of the century, "to a greater proportional amount than in almost any other county in the kingdom has changed the men as much as it has improved the country; they are now in the ebullition of this change; a vast amelioration has been wrought and is working. The Goths and Vandals of open fields touch the civilisation of enclosures." The capital of trade was beginning to be thrown into the cultivation of the land. Mr. Taunton was paring and burning hundreds of acres of waste land at Ensham, and, though farmers laughed at the mistakes of the town-bred agriculturist, he was in reality but the sign of the revolution which was creeping over the whole system of English farming.

But, "Forty years ago," the same writer confesses, "I found them a very different race from what they are at present." Even in the midst of this great advance, "a great deal of ignorance and barbarity remains." "When I passed from the conversation of the farmers I was recommended to call on to that of men whom chance threw in my way, I seemed to have lost a century in time, or to have moved a thousand miles in a day. Liberal communications, the result of enlarged ideas, were contrasted with a dark ignorance under the covert of wise suspicions; a sullen reserve lest landlords should be rendered too knowing, and false information given under the hope that it might deceive, were in such opposition that it was easy to see the change, however it might work, had not done its business. The old open-field school must die off before new ideas can become generally

rooted." This retrograde class, the exceptions of the close of the century, were fair representatives of the bulk of the agriculturists during the greater part of it. The tenant of his small holding, the holding of his father and grandfather, whose acres seemed bound up with his family history, had little to draw him out of the vegetative life of his fellows. The little circle round the fire at the village inn constituted his world; their chat furnished him with his news and information. The Journal indeed had sprung up of late, but a newspaper was still a novelty, and to the bulk who could not read, and made their cross in the parish register, a somewhat useless one. His only excursions were a "run" with the Squire's pack, and the journeys to market for the disposal of his produce. The great Bible served for his library, and was treasured perhaps more for the fly-leaf, with its entries of births, marriages, and deaths, than for the rest of its contents. Schools were "for his betters," and learning he looked down on as something "lackadaisical." Lilly, the astrologer, whose family were yeomen in the obscure town of Diseworth, in Leicestershire, describes it amusingly as "a town of great rudeness, wherein it is not remembered that any of the farmers thereof did ever educate any of their sons to learning." There were probably no such towns as Diseworth in the England of that day, but a village school was still a rarity. The farmer's home was the great kitchen, with its warm chimney corners, where the huge fitches hung amid the smoke for winter consumption. Wife and daughters were busy spinning flax for the countless sheets and counterpanes that filled the walnut presses in the bedroom, and the hum of the wheels enlivened the dull evenings. It was not the farmer's wife only whose wheel hummed so merrily; the labourer's wife had the same resource. In the middle of the last century "every cottage at

Baldon had a plot of hemp, and all manufactured into linen for their own consumption, selling what they could spare ;" but its close saw the extinction of this household manufacture. "The last," adds Young, writing in 1809, "was given up about six years ago."

It was a time of transition for much besides hemp plots. The whole face of the country was undergoing a great change by the rapid progress of enclosures. Before the accession of George II. scarcely an Enclosure Act can be discovered, but at the close of the last century "very nearly the whole range of country, 13 miles, from Banbury to Chipping-Norton is enclosed by Act of Parliament, and improved in product very greatly." Burford, Young speaks of as "enclosed 13 years ago." Culham-heath was still unenclosed. "the nearest land (near Nuneham lodge) covered with thick fern—a sure proof everywhere of what is below it." "Enclosure," adds Young, "has been the capital improvement of this county, for proportionately to the extent of it more land has been enclosed since I first travelled in it, which is about 40 years ago, I conceive, than in any county in England." The statistics fully justify this assertion. During the first forty years of the reign of George III. sixty-seven Enclosure Acts for this county had passed through Parliament, forty-one of which seem to have been carried into effect, and the amount of land thus utilised was little less than 100,000 acres, or somewhat more than one-fifth of the county. One consequence was a sensible diminution in the wheat produce. The 4,882 acres of wheat grown before these Enclosure Acts actually decreased by 112. Under the head of oats, however, as well as cattle, dairy land, sheep pasture, and turnips, we find a considerable increase. Burford is an instance: "Since its enclosure it has not produced so much corn, but infinitely more mutton and beef." Rents rose rapidly, as the produce increased. "Fringford has been improved greatly in rent and produce since the enclosure, at least trebled in both; Stoke Lyne the same. . . . Stratton Audley was £500 a year, now it is £2,500: one estate there was offered for £3000, it is now £800 per annum." Rents round Bicester were trebled; at Alvescot the vicarage farm rose from £200 to £600 a year; Wootton, "Mr. Sotham has not the least doubt of having yielded full four times the produce in the 37 years since its enclosure that it did in a like period before, and the rent is five times as much as it was in the open state." Nor did the rise in rent press heavily on those who paid it; "at Barton the land was let for scarcely anything, and the farmers generally as poor as could be; enclosed it let at twenty shillings an

acre, and the farmers in easy circumstances and doing well, and in all of them the farmers in general very much benefitted." Other districts, however, resisted for a long time the introduction of enclosures. Campsfield, the open common between Oxford and Woodstock, where we have seen the Oxford fastmen taking their morning drive, still hung on to its old "rights," its cow common and common meadows, where wretched cross-bred sheep were tended by "miserable shepherds." Whichwood still spread over its 7,000 acres, filling its vicinity with "poachers, deer-stealers, and pilferers of every kind. . . . Oxford gaol would be uninhabited were it not for this fertile source of crimes." Most stubborn of all was Otmoor, where the "commoners" were backed by the opposition of Lord Abingdon, and enjoyed the low flat, with its periodical inundations, its "rot," and "moor-evil," undisturbed. Long after, at a time just previous to the passing of the Reform Bill, the carrying out of the enclosure in that district gave rise to the notable Otmoor riots, which still linger in the recollection of many of our readers.

Great changes, too, were taking place in what we may call the interior economy of the farm. Oxfordshire became noted for the neatness and regularity of its rickyards. "The farmers," says Young, "have a proper pride in a clean and well ordered rickyard and are sure to walk a stranger into them. They form so perfect a contrast to the ragged heaps called stacks, by the courtesy of Suffolk and Norfolk, that I have returned to my own country and farm with no little disgust." The thrashing mill, though a new invention at the close of the last century, was rapidly superseding the flail. Other implements made slower progress. In 1807 only a few drills had crept into the county, scarifiers and scufflers were "very rare indeed," and not a single horse hoe was to be seen nearer than Henley-bridge, Horse hoeing Young notes as "quite unknown in Oxfordshire." The system of rotation of crops was still regarded in some quarters as an innovation; there were but one or two fields of cabbage; rape was only to be found on the rich red land north of Banbury. Swedes were in 1807 just beginning to attract attention, but at Milton where Sir C. Wilmoughby, the great patron of the plant, had covered considerable tracts of land with it, there had been none five years before. In this branch of agriculture Oxfordshire seems to have taken the lead among English counties. In other respects it was not so advanced. Nature had her own water-meadows at Watereaton, where the summer floods would sometimes sweep away five hundred pounds worth of

hay in a season, but there was not a single artificial water-meadow in the county. Where attempts were made to introduce them they were frustrated by the opposition of the millers. Artificial manure in the shape of peat or coal ash had begun to make its appearance under the patronage of Mr. Fane. Southdowns were being gradually introduced "to the exclusion of the Berkshires;" the Chilterns produced, says a competent witness, half as much again as they did thirty years before, and the increase was attributable to "the increase of live stock by more turnips and artificial grass."

Of the condition of the labourer we only gain incidental glimpses. His wages, too, had risen more than a third in the last forty years of the 18th century. At its close his wages amounted to about nine or ten shillings a week, with a rise to twelve shillings in harvest. This was at a time when, in the Oxford Market, beef was at 7½d. per pound, and the quartern loaf at 9d. "There are gardens, and good ones, to nine-tenths of the cottages I have seen in Oxfordshire." And he adds a curious fact, "A few years ago they had no potatoes; now all have them. Formerly, they did not like that root with their bacon, only cabbage; at present, they are generally eaten." Of their occasional hardships, and how much these have been relieved by national progress, we gain a glimpse in the following note. "Before the navigable canal, about 1780, the people at Heyford were greatly distressed for firing, wood being scarce; they were obliged to burn straw, &c., or anything they could procure, but are now as well supplied with coals as any other village in Oxfordshire."

Far greater distress, however, than that of the agricultural labourers was the lot of the manufacturing hands at Witney, Thame, and Woodstock. In the middle of the last century there were above five hundred weavers in full employ at Witney, but it sank gradually to below half that number, and so great were the fluctuations of the trade, that though revived for a time by the introduction of spinning jennies, it sank, in the five years preceding 1807

from four hundred to one hundred and fifty. At Thame a little lace manufacture was insufficient to save the town from "depressing poverty," which was enhanced by the high price of coals, 2s. 2d. per cwt. Greater still were the fluctuations in the trade of Woodstock. At the beginning of the century, the manufacture of articles of polished steel was introduced by a Mr. Metcalfe, and to such a height was it carried, that a chain of two ounces was sold for £170, the box in which the freedom of the borough was presented to Viscount Cliefden, cost 30 guineas, and a garter star, for the Duke of Marlborough, 50 guineas, while a pair of scissors sold in proportion to their workmanship, at from 5s. to 3 guineas. At the close of the century, however, the trinkets of Birmingham and Sheffield had driven these articles from the market, and not more than a dozen hands were employed in their manufacture. About 1750, however, the manufacture of leather into breeches and gloves, had been established here, and in 1807 no less than sixty to seventy men were engaged as "grounders" and "cutters," at wages of from a guinea to 30s. a week, and from 1400 to 1500 women, who earned from 8s. to 12s. So flourishing was the trade at this time, that the manufacture had risen, in ten years, from thirty dozen to four hundred dozen per week. In addition to these manufacturing centres, we may notice that the general employment of the female poor, at the close of the 18th century, was in the south of the county, lace-making, while spinning prevailed through the north and midland portions. The average of the county poor-rates was 4s. 8d. in the pound, but these varied greatly in different parts, from the 2s. rates of Kelmscott, to 10s. at Burford, and 14s., in the scarcity, at Bensington. The poor-rate for the city in 1803 (the date of these statistics) seems to have been slightly below the average of the county, amounting to 4s. 4d. in the pound. We have only to add, that at the beginning of the present century, the population of the city was estimated at about 13,000, that of the county at 96,000.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XIX.—NEW SERIES.

So much interest has been taken in the restoration of the City Races, that we may perhaps find some little entertainment in a glance at them a century ago. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, in the month of July, were the days selected for the sport; the principal prize was the gold cup of one hundred guineas in value (in addition to £40 in specie); the town purse of £50 for five-year-olds; a stake of the same value for four-year-olds; and a £50 gift from the stewards. Lord Abingdon, Lord Robert Spencer, Sir James Whalley Gardiner, and Captain Bertie (then master of the hounds) and Mr. Bowler, seem to have been the chief patrons of the sport. During the period of the races, Oxford was a scene of gaiety. Public breakfasts alternated with the balls and musical entertainments of the evening; while, for the less refined, there were matches in the Cockpit, in Holywell, "each morning of the races, between the gentlemen of Oxford and the gentlemen of Watlington for five guineas a battle, and fifty guineas the odd battle," and E.O., upon which we find the Mayor and constables busy in effecting a razzia. Itinerant hairdressers came down from London to prepare the elaborate head-dresses of the ladies who flocked in from every quarter to the races, the assemblies, and "Mr. Sadler's balloon."

The ascent of a balloon, so ordinary an event with us, was in 1784 a new discovery, for the honour and precedence in which France and England were eager in contending. To the unscientific it seemed little less than a miracle. "Mr. Rudge, of Queen's," was not the only college Fellow who launched these wondrous machines amid the applause of the university; nor the Marquis of Blandford the only peer who considered it an honour to cut the string that fastened it to the earth. But this interest rose to its greatest height when adventurers trusted

themselves to this frail means of ascent. One of the first of such exploits, in England, was the ascent of Mr. Sadler from the Physic Garden, November 12, 1784. The accounts notice "a surprising concourse of people of all ranks; the roads, streets, fields, trees, buildings, and towers of the parts adjacent being crowded beyond description." After crossing Otmoor, Thame, &c., the balloon descended near Sir William Lee's; and on the aeronaut's arrival in Oxford, "the populace seized the chaise at the entrance of the town, took off the horses, dragged the carriage thro' several of the principal streets of this city, and were not content till they had compelled the inhabitants to illuminate their houses."

Balloons were not the only amusements which Oxford had to offer her visitors or inhabitants. The Music-room was at this time at the height of its prosperity. Every Monday evening a concert of vocal and instrumental music was held (except during September and Passion week); the Messiah was performed in Lent, some other oratorio in Act Term, and in Easter and Michaelmas Terms either a piece of choral music, or a grand miscellaneous concert. The subscription was a guinea for two tickets, a sum so small that we wonder how the stewards could provide, as they undoubtedly did, such singers as Mara and Catalani. The amusements of Oxford seem to have been softened and refined by the character of the place. While Wantage had its back-sword feast, and Stow-on-the-Wold offered the munificent prizes of "half-a-guinea to any one who breaks a head, and half-a-crown to the man that has his head broken," Oxford was unobtrusively fostering "Florist Feasts," the humble precursors of our Horticultural Societies. "A show of Carnations in the Town Hall, August 8, 1782," seems to have been one of the first of these

exhibitions, which, from this time, continued to be held annually. No theatre was, as yet, established at Oxford; but a flourishing dramatic company could be found at Burford, and at Woodstock. An advertisement, warning all trespassers off the domains of Lord Harcourt, would seem to point to the first origin of that most enjoyable of all quiet amusements—a water-party to Nuneham.

It was from Nuneham that King George, with his Queen, and the Princes Ernest, Augustus, Adolphus; the Princess Royal, Augusta, and Elizabeth, visited Oxford, September 17th, 1785. This event, at any time an interesting one for Oxford, was especially notable as a sign and seal of that great change in the position of antagonism which the city had occupied up to the accession of the present king towards the Hanoverian dynasty. From Jacobite Oxford had become Tory, and was free once more to bask in the sunshine of royal favour. There were recent obligations due to her which George III. was of all men least likely to forget. In the heat of the great struggle in which Pitt, with the aid of the King, eventually succeeded in breaking for ever the oligarchic yoke of the great Whig houses, Oxford had come to the aid of the minister in his encounters with a hostile majority; had expressed to the King "its cordial thanks for your Majesty's late goodness and wisdom in removing from your councils" the heads of the coalition ministry of Fox and North; adding, "at the same time we intreat your Majesty to accept our hearty congratulations upon the appointment of a Ministry who, we have reason to believe, are equal in ability and virtue to the important trust they have undertaken, and in every respect deserving the confidence of the people at large, so generally bestowed upon them." "We shall ever be ready," said the address in conclusion, "to support the constitutional exercise of all your royal prerogatives, and we will not cease to implore the blessing of Almighty God upon a Prince whose exemplary life and character have so justly rendered him the object of universal veneration and esteem." This address they even prevailed on their member, Lord Robert Spencer, though himself in opposition, to present to the King. Reward was not long in coming. Warton, the fellow of an Oxford college, was now the court laureate, and, for the first time since the accession of the Georges, Oxford shared with Cambridge the honour of a royal visit. The royal party, accompanied by the Earl and Countess of Harcourt, entered the city in five carriages, and passing through the fields behind Merton College, attended morning prayers at the Cathedral. After inspecting Christ Church, they were waited upon at

Corpus by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Dennis, President of St. John's College, preceded by the Beadles, "with their staves inverted," who conducted them by the Schools to the Theatre, where the Heads of Houses and the Proctors had the honour of kissing their Majesties' hands, while Dr. Hayes performed several overtures on the organ. After visiting the Bodleian, New College, St. John's, and the Observatory, the King returned to the Council Chamber, and conferred the honour of knighthood on the Mayor (John Treacher, Esq.), who, with the Aldermen, assistants, and other members of the Corporation, kissed hands. All Souls', Queen's, and Magdalen, having been inspected, the royal party quitted Oxford at a little past five, and returned by Lord Harcourt's to Windsor. It may interest future investigators into royal costume to know that "his Majesty and the young Princes were in a blue and gold uniform, the Queen in a lilac silk, the Princesses Royal and Elizabeth in pale blue, and Princess Augusta in light green." The enthusiasm of the citizens seems to have been boundless. Bells rang incessantly from the arrival of the royal family till their departure, and at night the city was "grandly illuminated."

The mention of the Mayor, whom this accolade converted into Sir John Treacher, reminds us that the year immediately preceding had been distinguished by three Mayoralties. The Mayor for the year beginning September, 1782, was Mr. William Fletcher, mercer; the Bailiffs being Mr. Christopher Yeats and Mr. John Collis. His successor was Mr. John Watson, with Mr. Stephen Haynes and Mr. William Costar, Bailiffs. On the 3rd of April, in the succeeding year (1784), Mr. Watson died, and, as an election was close at hand, and a returning officer necessary, Mr. Isaac Lawrance was elected in his place for the remainder of the year of office. July, however, saw the death of Mr. Lawrance, at the age of seventy; and the Mayoralty now fell to Alderman Edward Tawney, who was more fortunate than his predecessors. Nicholas Halse, Esq., held the chief magistracy during the following year, with Mr. Pearce and Mr. Bush, Bailiffs. Mr. Halse had previously been elected Assistant in the year 1783. The only event connected with the Corporation recorded during these four years, from 1782 to 1785, was the opening of "the organ, just erected, by Mr. Green, of London, for the Corporation of this city," in Carfax Church, by a voluntary played by Dr. Hayes, which ushered in the procession of Mayor and Aldermen. Mr. Cross was appointed organist, for whose benefit the oratorio of Judas Maccabeus was performed in St. Martin's.

The election which caused so hasty a re-election of Mayor, was caused by that dissolution of Parliament by Pitt, which resulted in the return of a triumphant majority in his favour, and the annihilation of the old Whig faction. But, though Oxford had been so lavish of fair words, the yoke was too strong to be thrown off, and the old members, Lord Robert Spencer and Captain Bertie, though open followers of Fox, were returned without opposition. The scene was hardly more creditable at Banbury, where the territorial influence of Lord North secured his re-election. "Some disgust having been conceived at a former election, relative to the beer which had been withheld from the companies of woolcombers, weavers, &c., they peremptorily declined accepting any favours from his Lordship, and, determining to have an election of their own, constituted a corporation among themselves. At the time Lord North's election was carrying on, the new-created corporation passed his Lordship in grand procession, with music, flags, and a curious display of the coalition, which consisted of a fox and a badger, the latter with a blue riband" (Lord North, habitually wore the badge of the Order of the

Garter), "and both suspended from a branched pole. The companies having elected their member, he was chaired amidst the acclamations of a thousand people." The mention of the companies in this extract, from the papers of the time, is illustrated by the account of the thanksgiving day at Salisbury, in the same year, where the effigy of the giant, St. Christopher, was escorted by a procession of the companies of joiners, shoemakers, weavers, tailors, and woolcombers; the last of which made, on this occasion, "its first appearance as a society, and added in no small degree to the beauty of the scene; they were preceded by a boy and girl, elegantly habited in the dresses of a shepherd and shepherdess, and followed by a band of youths, uniformly dressed in white, with sashes of various-coloured wool, and carrying wands; next came Bishop Blaize in his episcopal robes and mitre, holding a prayer-book and wool-comb in his hands, mounted on a white horse, attended by pages, and followed by his chaplain, also mounted on a white steed. The body of combers, drest in white uniforms, with sashes of wool, and a banner of the same, closed a scene which gave infinite satisfaction to the spectators."

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XX.—NEW SERIES.

THE year 1786 began and ended with a great display of activity on the part of the new Street Commissioners. In February informations were ordered against "such of the inhabitants as shall neglect to have the pavement swept before their respective doors" four times a week, and against "persons suffering postchaises, carts, or waggons to remain in the public streets, and particularly in Lincoln and Jesus College Lanes, on Market days." And in the following December no less than ninety inhabitants of the High-street were summoned and fined for neglect of these directions. In another instance their activity was perhaps not less beneficial. The inconvenience of the blocking up of Carfax had long been felt, and in October it was finally determined that the Conduit should be taken down before the Lady-Day next following, and that the northern side of the western extremity of the High-street should be opened by setting back the projecting houses and buildings in a right line with the front of the new Market. In the succeeding May workmen were already busy in taking down "the ornaments and imagery from the upper part of the Conduit, these ancient decorations having been presented by the university to the Earl of Harcourt." They still form not the least among the many attractions of Nuneham, but it may perhaps be a matter of regret that, while so many local sites remained unappropriated, a relic of so much civic interest should have been lost to Oxford.

Nuneham at this period was often honoured with the royal presence, and after a visit to Lord Harcourt in the month of August their Majesties, with the Princesses Royal, Augusta, and Elizabeth set out for Oxford on Sunday, the 18th, and were received at the east gate of the Schools by the Vice-Chancellor, the Duke of Marlborough, the Marquis of Blandford, Heads of Colleges, &c., and escorted to the

Theatre. Here an address was presented overflowing with protestations of loyalty and thanksgiving for the King's escape from the attempt of the maniac Nicholson. A similar address, couched in still warmer terms, was presented by the Corporation in the Council Chamber, after which (the Mayor declining to accept that dignity) the honour of knighthood was conferred on the senior Alderman, Richard Tawney, Esq. The royal example had begun to make these visits to the city fashionable, and every year is now distinguished by the arrival of the Duke of Gloucester or some other prince of the blood. In September we find announced the visit of the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, and his consort Beatrice, Princess of Modena, with the Imperial Ambassador and a brilliant suite. A more really beneficial result of the royal visit was a present from the King of £300 towards the release of the poor debtors in Oxford gaol, and a remission to each of the better-conducted convicts of a part of their sentence. By the means of this benefaction the Earl of Harcourt was enabled to effect the discharge of twenty-five out of the twenty-seven debtors confined in the Castle. Benevolence was not confined to royalty; in the month of January of this year "five hundred half-peck loaves, a benefaction from Sir John Treacher, our late Mayor, were distributed among the necessitous freemen and the widows of freemen of this city."

Among the more miscellaneous events of this year may be noticed one which recalls the more recent sacrilege at New College; the robbery of two pair of massive candlesticks and a large silver offertory plate from Magdalen Chapel, by an organised gang of thieves, who effected an entrance through the wood yard and kitchen into the cloisters, and made their way into the Chapel by means of a false key. They were convicted at the next assizes, two re-

prieved, and Ward, the leader of the gang, executed in the month of April. A curious instance of the low morality of the times may be seen in the frequency of the "Wife Sales." In August, 1786, we find that "one Broom, of Kennington, near this city, sold his wife to a person of the name of Panton, of Little London, for five shillings, to whom she was publicly delivered soon after with a halter about her neck; but it seems Panton was very soon sick of his bargain, for in the afternoon of the same day he generously made a present of her to Sadler, the Woodward of Bagley." And in the year 1789 we find the new Oxford market-place selected as the scene of one of the brutal barterings by a "navvy" employed on the canal, who "tied a penny slip round the waist of his wife, the end of which he held fast till he had pocketed three shillings in part payment, the purchaser not abounding in cash; he then put the cord into the hands of the new husband and took a French leave. The woman immediately called for her second wedding ring, which being put on she eagerly kissed the fellow, with whom she walked off."

The Mayor chosen for the year beginning September, 1786, was Mr. Richard Weston; Mr. William Forty and Mr. Edward Hitchings being elected Bailiffs. In the next month the honorary freedom of the city was presented to Sir Charles Nourse and Mr. William Jackson, the originator and proprietor of the *Oxford Journal*. The same honour was in the course of the next year conferred on Lord Heathfield, better known as General Elliott, the gallant defender of Gibraltar, on his casual passage through the city. We find the corporation during the year 1787 distinguishing itself by a crusade against "the unlawful practice of forestalling and regrating which has lately prevailed in the market of this city;" but our smile at such folly will perhaps be tempered by the recollection that at this very time Lord Kenyon was busy preaching much the same sort of political economy from his seat on the King's Bench. The Commemoration of this year was enlivened by a public breakfast in Trinity College Gardens. "The tables were plentifully covered under the shade of the lime tree walk near the shrubbery." We instinctively think of Tom Warton, "gobbling" and punning from one table to another, and listening by turns to the compliments of the ladies, and what was always such a magnet to him, the strains of "the Oxford band." Year after year his birthday and congratulatory odes meet us now in the columns of the *Journal*. They do not cease till we meet with the announcement of his burial (May, 1790) in the college chapel, the

funeral being attended by all the dignitaries of the University. Antiquarian, one might think, even in death, there were found, in digging for his grave, some few remains of a forgotten predecessor in the occupation of those last few feet of earth, "a buckle about the bigness of a crown piece," and "some fine silver threads which might probably have belonged to the fringe of his girdle."

At the civic election for the year 1788 we find Mr. Francis Gudden elected Mayor; Mr. William Hyde and Mr. James Tagg bailiffs; Mr. Thomas Benwell and Mr. John Cox chamberlains; while the vacancies in the Council Chamber were filled up by the election of Mr. William Slatter, Mr. Simon Brown, and Mr. Richard Cox. The mayoralty was signalised by another passage of the royal party through the city on their way to Cheltenham. In May of this year we find "the Oxfordshire Regiment of Militia"—quartered in the city for their annual exercise of one month—reviewed on Port Meadow by their colonel, Lord Chas. Spencer, and dismissed after a dinner in the Council Chamber. From this time the corps seems to have been regularly exercised at Bullingdon and elsewhere, and to have excited an amount of warlike enthusiasm similar to that which is every day springing up more and more around us. England was, in fact, unconsciously training for her death struggle with that revolutionary power which was rapidly rising into greatness on the other side of the Channel. Whiggism was beginning to be confounded with Jacobinism, and the loyal corporations were everywhere rallying round William Pitt. In his struggle with Fox and the Carlton House Whigs, on the Regency question, he received the thanks of the City of Oxford. In common with "the 267 patriotic members of the House of Commons, who strenuously asserted and maintained the constitutional right of the Lords and Commons of this realm to supply the defect of the personal exercise of the Royal authority," in opposition to the hereditary claims of the Prince of Wales. The strife was ended by the recovery of the King from his temporary fit of insanity, and nowhere was that recovery hailed with louder rejoicings than at Oxford. A public dinner was given by the corporation, the city flag was displayed from the tower of St. Martin's, the bells rang incessantly throughout the day, and drums and fifes paraded the streets. The night was the signal for a general illumination, in which the colleges, ("for the first time," it is noted) shared; the walls and palisades of the churches, and the "City Colonade" on Carfax, were decorated with lights, and not a cottage in the suburbs neglected to display its owner's loyalty. The Duke of

Leicester, who, with the rest of the Irish deputation, sent to offer the unrestricted Regency to the Prince of Wales, had been met in Oxford by the news of the King's restoration to health, saw the poor watchmen each contributing his pound of candles to ornament his box; and stage-waggon, stripped of their tilts, with the naked hoops studded over with lights, and groups of loyal fellows seated within, troling out loyal songs, and passing round the health of King George till break of day. Pitt was not forgotten in the general exultation. In October, 1789, we find him passing through the city, in the company of Lord Auckland, and Lord Henry Spencer, the bells ringing without pause during the whole time of their stay. The mere threat of an attempt at a repeal of the Test and Corporation Act, revived in 1790 the vigour of civic Toryism; by an unanimous vote of the council, the city members and the High Steward were requested to oppose the project, and the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Abingdon showed ready deference to the wishes of what was almost their pocket-borough.

The most interesting event of the year 1789, was the falling of the "Founder's Oak" in Magdalen Waterwalks. It stood at their entrance, and, by its dimensions and antiquity, had become an object of great curiosity. In girth it exceeded 21 feet, in height 71 feet, and its cubic contents 754 feet. For more than nine feet from the ground it was a mere shell, and had for a long time been kept from falling by two or three roots "scarcely so large as a two-inch cable." Its age was estimated at upwards of six centuries, and in the fifteenth century it was already so notable an object, that William of Waynflete expressly ordered his college to be built "right to it." It is curious that its fall was attributed to injuries received so far back as the reign of Charles II., when the present walks were laid out. A portion of its timber was applied by the College to the construction of a large and highly-ornamented chair, and numerous snuff-boxes still remain as mementoes of its existence.

The Mayor for the year 1789 was Mr. John Parsons, mercer, Mr. William Wright and Mr. James

Rowland being chosen bailiffs. The next year saw Mr. William Thorp, senior, elevated to the mayoralty, while Mr. John Johnson and Mr. Thomas Hardy became bailiffs, Mr. James Halse and Mr. John Swift being elected chamberlains. How carefully the city was nursed by this corporation may be seen from the transactions connected with the election of Mr. Annesley in 1790. Immediately on the arrival of the news of Captain Bertie's death, the Mayor convened the Corporation and the Council, who unanimously put in nomination Arthur Annesley, Esq., of Bletchington, who was at once ushered into the town by many gentlemen of the corporation, and a large body of the freemen, with drums, music, and colours. A canvass was commenced; upwards of a hundred houses opened for the entertainment of the freemen; and the candidate, after dining with the electors at the Angel, was drawn in triumph by the crowd, which took the horses from his carriage, through the principal streets. The freedom of the city was presented him in a gold box, and Mr. Annesley returned the compliment by a grand entertainment to the Council and Chamber in the Town Hall. In spite, however, of this elaborate preparation an opposition candidate was at the last moment started, a Mr. Ogilvie, who, however, succeeded in polling only 103 votes against the 613 which were recorded for his opponent and the Corporation. Civilities were bandied briskly enough between the civic dignitaries and the neighbouring peers, who were desirous of a seat for younger sons. Captain Parker is presented with the freedom of the city, and his father, the Earl of Macclesfield, entertains at the Star the members of the Tailors and Cordwainers Companies; "upon which occasion the two honorary members,"—Captain Parker and Lord Parker—"were each presented with a taylor's silver thimble and a silver-bladed shoemaker's awl in an ivory handle." The Town Hall was restored and made commodious in 1790, by the orders and at the expense of the Marquis of Blandford, while his father, the Duke of Marlborough, presented the room with "a magnificent gilt chandelier and chain."

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OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XXI.—NEW SERIES.

THE year 1792 found Oxford, in common with the rest of the kingdom, eagerly watching the progress of revolution in France. Whatever sympathy the first outbreak of liberty had excited was being fast extinguished by the excesses into which the revolution had by this time plunged; and that reaction was commencing which was eventually to defer for nearly half a century later the slightest approaches to a just reform of the representation. The king's head which, to use Danton's daring phrase, France threw down as her gage of defiance to Europe, was for England the symbol of a Tory despotism founded on the horror which that deed of blood excited. Addresses of confidence in existing institutions became the order of the day. Fearful of the dark and stormy sea into which France was so daringly launching forth, England clung to the worst and most effete abuses, as though a familiar evil were better than so obscure and uncertain a good. To those who are willing to cast aside every obstruction or anomaly in their eager reaching forward to a political Utopia, the lesson is no valueless one. France hewed her way through abuses and anomalies to the despotism of the second of December; England amid abuses and inconsistency waited patiently the development of her freedom in the great charter of 1832.

Addresses of confidence, as we have said, poured rapidly in, in answer to the vigorous exertions of the small knot of English republicans who circulated so diligently the writings of Tom Paine. Such an address we find presented to the Crown in June, 1792, by the Corporation of Oxford. "Kingly power," said that address, "wisely limited, is the surest safeguard of the rights and liberties of a great nation. We have to regret that no branch of the British Constitution has failed to meet its full share of reproach and calumny. The church, the nobility,

the representation of the people, have each in their turn become the object of direct attack, malignant invective, and insidious ridicule." In the month of December, in the same year, a "Loyal Association" was formed in the city under the presidency of Thomas Walker, Esq., and with the patronage of the authorities both of the university and city, for the purpose of declaring the firm attachment of its members to "the happy Constitution of our country," and of binding them to "oppose, detect, and suppress all seditious, treasonable, and inflammatory publications, whether in newspapers, handbills, ludicrous or caricature prints, &c.," and to assist the magistrates in the suppression of any riot or disturbance; and to the resolutions of this society the Taylors' Company, the most important body in civic politics, gave in its formal assent. (We may notice in passing that the then Mayor, Edward Lock, Esq. had in August been elected an honorary member of this company.) The university was at the same time busy in the relief of the French refugee clergy, towards whose support the Vice-Chancellor was enabled in November to transmit the sum of £500, as a first instalment, and in December a further sum of more than £600. These expressions of political feeling were not confined to the higher classes. In January, 1793, we find the rabble "parading the streets of the city with lighted torches, and bearing about the effigy of Tom Paine," amid the shouts of a mob of boys, until the evening, when it was committed to the flames on the top of Carfax. "The figure was dressed in black, with the Rights of Man in his left hand and a pair of stays under his right arm." The same ceremony was performed in the course of the next week at Headington, with somewhat more state and dignity. "Colonel Langton, and Richard Lloyd, Esq., were particularly active and zealous on this occasion; and previous to the

execution a band of music attended the procession, and God save the King was performed, vocally and instrumentally, for near five hours, during all which time the utmost decorum was observed." As the contest became graver we find the first institution of that "general fast and humiliation for imploring success on our arms, and for restoring the blessings of peace to this kingdom," which was afterwards observed throughout the whole of the war, on April 19, 1793. And we are reminded of that dark background of war, which we are so tempted to lose sight of in its more dazzling details, in the long list of subscriptions for the relief of the "widows and children of seamen or soldiers who may die or be killed in his Majesty's services during the present war," which was headed by the Corporation with a donation of £50.

An agreeable variation of these sadder features of Oxford history is afforded in the account of the Duke of Portland's inauguration after his election to the office of Chancellor of the University, vacated by the death of Lord North. After attending at a grand choral service at St. Mary's, whose "galleries were occupied by a brilliant assemblage of ladies," the new Chancellor dined with the governors of the Radcliffe at a public ordinary in the Town Hall, and heard Mrs. Billington sing at Dr. Hayes' concert in the evening. On the next morning he proceeded to the Theatre, and conferred degrees on the Bishop Dromore—better known to lovers of English literature as the collector of "The Reliques of Ancient English Poetry," the amiable and accomplished Dr. Percy; on the Duke of Devonshire, Lords Bute, Spencer, and George Cavendish; on the Right Hon. William Wyndham and a crowd of other noblemen and statesmen. The same ceremonies on the two following days, the graver features of the scene being relieved by the balls and promenades of the evening, and the whole being brought to a close by a grand performance of the Messiah in the Theatre.

The employment of the Oxfordshire regiment of Militia (July 1793) in escorting a thousand French prisoners from Southampton to Salisbury, plunges us at once into the bustle of the great Revolutionary War which ended in 1815, and in November of the same year the Council is voting twenty guineas towards the use of the soldiers under the command of the Duke of York, at that time campaigning in Flanders; and in April, 1794, a sum of £300 was voted by the Corporation in aid of the subscription for internal defence, in addition to the individual contributions of each of its members. The money was applied towards the raising of two troops of Fencible Cavalry in the county to serve

during the war, which were soon organised under Major Parker and Captain Auriel, and marched off into Northamptonshire. In the midst of these preparations came the news of the great naval victory of Lord Howe, which was celebrated by a grand illumination. The front of Queen's, its parapet, and cupola, were covered with lights, bands of music played loyal airs, and the bells rang throughout the day. The streets were crowded until midnight. Admiral Bowyer, one of the heroes of the day, on his return to his seat at Radley, was escorted by the townsmen of Abingdon in blue ribbons and cockades, and entertained by the gentry of the neighbourhood. The ebullitions of popular loyalty were, however, sometimes more ardent than wise, for in the course of this year we find the Dissenting Minister at Oxford violently assaulted by a party of recruits "under a misconception of his political sentiments."

With war came war-prices and starvation. Every winter had been accompanied by voluntary subscriptions for the relief of the indigent poor, but these attempts produced scarcely any impression on the general distress. Yet the committee could state that "considerably more than four thousand persons have been regularly supplied with bread, twice in the week, at little more than half-price, for the space of eleven weeks," while the Corporation ordered all necessitous persons to be supplied with the best coals at fourteen pence per hundred, and the deficiency to be made good by the City Treasurer, on a consumption which in less than five months amounted to six hundred tons. What a boon this was we see from the joy with which the arrival of a canal boat, in the opening of March, was welcomed. The canal had been closed by a frost for more than ten weeks; coals had been brought by land carriage from Birmingham, and sold at four shillings a hundred. The county magistrates decided that for a man and his wife, wages to the amount of at least six shillings a week were necessary, adding one shilling for every additional child, and that where the family earnings were less, the overseer should make up the deficiency. The scarcity did not cease with the winter, and the usual amount of folly in the shape of proposals for its relief began to crop up. The farmers around Burford resolved "to sell their corn only to mealmen and bakers who shall consume the same at or near home, and not to any jobber, for they have found," adds the editor, "that persons of this description buy up various sorts of grain, and send it by different canals out of the country. The above laudable resolution, if universally adopted, will put an effectual stop to these proceedings."

Such nonsense as this was not confined to farmers. Lord Dudley informed his tenants "that if they do not sell their wheat at what may be deemed a fair and reasonable price, he will, according as they sell exorbitantly, advance their rents at Michaelmas, and give the sum arising from such advance to the poor." It is scarcely possible to conceive that the "Wealth of Nations" had been many years in existence, and that Adam Smith's pupil, William Pitt, was the first minister of Great Britain. The Duke of Marlborough and Lord Harcourt showed greater sense in the example which they set of ploughing up a great part of their parks to raise grain. The Vice-Chancellor and Heads of Houses unanimously agreed to "reduce the consumption of wheat in their own families by at least one-third of the usual quantity, and to recommend the same to their respective societies." In this they did but follow the example of the Privy Council, who had entered into a similar agreement to consume only bread with a mixture of one-third of barley-flour. As might be expected, these quixotic attempts produced no great impression, and, in July, 1795, a general subscription is again set on foot for the relief of the poor, and the reduction of the price of bread in their case to fourteen pence the half-peck, which the corporation headed by a donation of one hundred guineas. Sufferings such as these were hardly compensated by great victories like that at Camperdown, for which we find Oxford busy in a general thanksgiving in December, 1796, "sermons being preached before the University by the Rev. Dr. Collinson, Provost of Queen's College; and before the Corporation by the Rev. William Green, A.M., of Magdalen Hall."

We have passed over in this hasty sketch of Oxford, at the close of the last century, some events of miscellaneous interest, such as the great eclipse which was very visible here in September, 1793, and a curious tornado, which visited the city in the

beginning of 1792. "A meeting of the Bursars," held in 1793, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the late advance of two shillings per barrel laid on beer by the Oxford brewers," in which they invite "proposals from such brewers in the country as may be inclined to serve the different colleges," is worth mentioning in these days of "strikes." A trial of great importance for the trade of Oxford was that of the Corporation against William Taman, who, being matriculated and privileged as a barber, had tried a variety of other occupations, as a tallow-chandler, earthenware man, and cutler. The University contended that his privilege from matriculation entitled him to the exercise of all or any of these in addition to his tonsorial profession. The City relied on charters, etc., to prove that the privilege was limited to that particular trade of barber, which he was entitled to exercise as a matriculated person. The jury, with the approbation of Heath, the presiding judge, gave their verdict, without hesitation, in favour of the City. A serious mutiny of the Oxfordshire Militia, stationed, in 1795, at Bletchington, must have excited a painful interest in the county. It was a rough attempt to effect what their superiors were just as clumsily attempting—a reduction in prices. They cleared the butchers' stalls of their contents, selling them at fourpence a pound; insisted on a farmer's selling wheat at £12 a load, and carried off his flour to the amount of £5,000, to sell at a "fair price" at Lewes market next day. For the night they encamped at Newhaven, where they were surrounded and made prisoners by the Lancashire Fencibles, who were in the neighbourhood, but their comrades in barracks, sallying out to effect their rescue, boldly attacked a troop of Horse Artillery which disputed their progress, and were not dispersed without bloodshed. Heavy punishments were inflicted, and four ringleaders shot for this crime.

OXFORD DURING THE LAST CENTURY.

No. XXII.—NEW SERIES.

"IMAGINATION," said the Greeks of old, "is the daughter of memory." To those who have accompanied us through the series of papers, of which this forms the conclusion, the converse may appear equally true. Our memory of the past must indeed be ever tinged deeply with Imagination. We look back on a past century as the traveller looks back on a distant landscape, where the grey of evening is blotting out one by one the coarser features of the scene, the miry roads, the squalid huts, the filthy peasantry, and leaving but the dark masses of long colonnades of elms, or the distant spires and pinnacles standing out sharp and black against the amber sky. As we, too, look back on the century which we have been sketching, we see how its fouler and more degrading features have passed away from men's memories; how its finer and more romantic points have been magnified through the haze of our fancy, till we have summed up and consecrated all under the name of "The Good Old Times." There would be little harm in all this, if, in doing justice to the past, we did not often do less than justice to the present. Comparisons are proverbially odious; but the comparisons which some of the older among us are so fond of instituting between the present and the past are the most odious, because they are the most erroneous of all. It has been the fate of the authors of these papers to have to strip away much of the romance that enshrouded the deformity of the Last Century; to lay bare its low mean aims, its grossness, its utter want of moral tone or energy, and it was impossible to do so without provoking some comparison with the present—without the expression of a firm conviction that the advance from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century has indeed been a passing from darkness into light—a crossing of the great gulf, which we alluded to in our first paper, as severing the two most dissimilar æras of our history.

It is not without reason that "we boast," as old Homer sang long ago, "to be far better men than our forefathers." Low, as in the opinion of some, the standard of our politics has sunk, it would be hard to wring a consent, even from the lowest of Oxford pot-wallopers, to the unblushing sale of the civic representation in Parliament. The stoutest of reactionaries would stand aghast at a public reprimand delivered at the bar of the House to civic functionaries guilty, on their own confession, of open and flagrant corruption, at a second bargain concluded even within the walls of Newgate, at the fifty open public-houses, and the cold collation to the members of the Corporation, which celebrated the sale of the seat to the Duke of Marlborough. Those who still profess to regret the changes effected by the Municipal Reform Act can scarcely regret changes which, at any rate, abolished the bribery, the gin-bottles, the unscrupulous employment of influence which made a civic election a bye-word. The fellows of St. John's no longer think it a nocturnal enjoyment to sally forth for a bottle at the neighbouring alehouses. The Three Tuns no longer affords a means of convivial pleasure to the dignitaries of All Souls. The present Professor of Poetry does not rival his predecessor, Warton, in his love for a pot-house; nor is it a common event for noblemen to rise in the morning after the whet of a quart of brandy. A highwayman, mounted like Dumas, would be as much stared at as a mermaid; we never think of looking carefully to our pistols as we take our railway ticket. Our prisons are not the scene of the foulest excesses, and the most horrible outbreaks; the pillory is gone with the stocks and whipping at the cart's tail. The poor, tattered, supperless servitor has almost vanished. If the Smart survives, his "smooth unruffled stream" has at least to break over the rocks of Examiners and Testamurs; even

a gentleman-commoner may be studious without fear of a taunt of being "a bookish fellow" from his tutor. "Toasts" and beauties abound, let us hope, still; but Merton Gardens no longer catch the whispers of flirtation, or the click of Flavia's fan. Baylis and Blenkinsop have disappeared with the wigs they so deftly manufactured; and the barber is no longer seen hurrying to college to prepare the student's peruke for Hall. With the barber other trades have sunk into comparative insignificance. The Guild of Cordwainers, the Company of Tailors, only afford subjects of interest to the civic antiquary. If we turn from city to county we can scarce recall the farmer of a hundred years ago, "fixed fungus-like on his peculiar spot," knowing nothing, caring nothing for improvement of the outer world, amid the present bustle of Farmers' Clubs and Agricultural Societies. The iron road along which we whirl in a day from London to Edinburgh has carried us almost beyond the memory of the Turnpike of the end of the Last Century, quite beyond that of the mud-lane of its opening.

This age, however, of the Georges was by no means an age of inaction. Materially it was an æra of gigantic progress. While the mind and conscience of Europe were waiting, as it were, for the thunder-burst of the French revolution to wake them from their death-sleep, mechanical ingenuity and commercial activity were rapidly raising England to the position which it holds at this day as the manufacturing centre of the world. Little as yet was generally known of the laws by which this commerce was regulated. Lord Kenyon was charging grand juries, and Oxford magistrates were advertising against the practices of forestalling and regrating, the Court in its anxiety to alleviate a general famine could think of no other device but that of ceasing to eat puddings and pastry. But heedless of little follies like these, the great river was cutting out its own channels and spreading fertility in its own way around. And it is from this rapid material progress of the last century that there is almost as great a contrast between itself in its beginning and in its close, as between itself as a whole and its successor. Nowhere is this contrast more vividly presented to us than in the papers of this series. As they open Oxford is hurrahing for Dr. Sacheverell, persecuting Hanoverians, illuminating for the birthday of the Pretender, and toasting King James in every tavern and coffee house. The "deep disloyalty" of the place is the subject of discussion among the Lords, and for the last time in the history of Oxford it is occupied by a hostile garrison. A hundred

years pass, and with them pass all traces of Jacobitism and "Major-General Pepper's dragoons;" a Hanoverian monarch is still on the throne, but to whisper a jest upon him is counted a sign of republicanism. Tom Paine is being burnt in effigy, a loyal association is the fashion of the day, and crowds throng the streets to huzzah King George the Third when he honours with frequent visits his loyal city and university. When 1700 opens England is thrilling with the glorious news of Blenheim, of Ramillies, of Malplaquet; the House of Bourbon is the terror of Europe, and a grand confederacy is clipping the ambitious wings of the Grand Monarque; when it closes the descendant of Louis XIV. is a refugee at Hatfield, and another great confederacy is on foot for his restoration to the throne of the Bourbons. Nor is the contrast less in our own internal progress. If 1700 witnessed the university's greatest inactivity and degradation, 1800 saw the first beginnings of that system of examination which led the way to higher and nobler intellectual efforts. If religion during the first years of the eighteenth century seemed dormant within her walls, the middle of the century sent Wesley and Whitfield forth to sow the good seed which may almost be said to have saved England from the fate of her sister countries of the Continent. The county was not behind hand. It is the great æra of enclosures; commons are disappearing, the great range of open country from Banbury to Chipping Norton is being parcelled out into fields and farms; the value of land is doubling and trebling, and yet the farmers find no reason to complain. The old race of agriculturists is dying silently away before the dawn of a better system of culture; the close of the century sees a new race springing up eager to test and adopt the new implements that are to work a revolution in their modes of farming,—the drill and the thrashing mill, the scarifier and the horse-hoe. Externally, indeed, there seems little change or progress in the city. The corporation is as corrupt in the beginning as in the close of this æra, as busy in fixing the assize of bread, in prohibiting inoculation, in putting down strikes and combinations for wages. "Backsword-play" goes on in Gloster-green, and cock-fighting at the pit in Holywell. St. Giles's fair remains, even far into the next century, the type in brutality and excess of St. Bartholomew's. The streets ring with the oaths and curses of ruffians who cared little for the watchman or the staff of the city marshal. But even in amusements signs of a gradual amelioration peep forth. Concerts grow more and more frequent. Flower shows, shows of carnations, trips to Nuneham,

trivial as they may seem to us, are yet the straws that shew the set of the tide of refinement. The building of the Radcliffe Infirmary forms an important era in the charities of Oxford. Meanwhile the whole aspect of the city is undergoing a change by the operation of the Improvement Act of the latter part of the century. A market-place is established, the lumbering array of signs and penthouse shops are swept away, the streets are paved and lighted, the kennel over which Johnson stood so long astride, wrapt in meditation, disappears. The entrances of the city are widened by the removal of the old gates—a sweeping measure which we cannot but regret while we approve it—by the construction of the present fine bridges, and by the removal of the ruinous blocks of houses which disfigured the approaches to them.

It is a topic on which one would be tempted to enlarge in an age when the importance of local and sanitary improvements and the connexion of wide open streets and free-air circulation with health is becoming daily more recognized. But our limits bid us pass on to another topic which may have struck, perhaps, the readers of this series. Interesting books have been written on the boyhood of great men; it was one of the felicities of our subject that it introduced us to not a few of England's greatest intellects at a time of still greater interest than their boyhood, the time of brief rest ere that plunge into the life-ocean which some were to buffet so manfully, where some were to suffer so terrible a shipwreck. We saw the father of the Wesleys, with his allowance of five shillings from his friends, copying, running errands, teaching, for a livelihood; Foote acting Punch through the streets, ridiculing the pedantry of Provost Gower, and dashing through Oxford in a coach and six greys. Malmesbury met us, the future diplomatist, drinking claret and playing whist with Eden and Charles Fox; the brilliant though discursive writer whom we have so recently lost, De Quincy, was there, entering hall with coat buttoned to the throat, and gown drawn close about

him to conceal the rents in his threadbare habits; Collins was parading about Queen's or Magdalen in laced hat and the finery of an exquisite; a greater poet, a still more unhappy man, Shelley, is staining his carpet with vitriol or making ducks and drakes in the pool below Shotover, or snatching up the children whom he met for a kiss. Gibbon paces the cloisters of Magdalen in his velvet cap and silk gown, sneering at the port-bibbing dons whom he mixes with in common-room, and sneered at by them in turn as they see him poring over his D'Herbelot; making tours to Bath, to Buckinghamshire, to London; and poring over Arabic and bills with the same cynical indifference. Tom Warton has strolled with us up Headington Hill or round the Cherwell-meadows, amusing us with his poetry and his puns, his gobbled criticisms, his enthusiasm at a fife and a drum. Greatest of all we have seen Johnson's gaunt convulsed form lounging at Pembroke gate, a wit, a rebel, a king among his fellows, at once so proud and so poor.

They are gone—these men of the last century—and their age is gone with them. We inherit the material wealth it bequeathed to us; its manufactures and its commerce, its roads, canals, and spinning-jennies—but the age has gone—it has left us nothing of itself. There is, as we said at the very outset, a great gulf between our aims, our purposes, our standards of what is high and excellent, and the aims, purposes, standards of the age which we have been investigating. The fishermen of the Northern Seas believe that seamen sometimes land on what seems a great island, and whilst reposing in fancied security, the *Kraksa*—for the island is that fabled monster—sinks and is seen no more. As we turn our eyes away from this Eighteenth Century on which we have been landing so lately, it seems like the *Kraksa* to sink into the deep sea of oblivion—we gaze easily beyond to the firm solid land—the age of Cromwell, of Elizabeth, of the Reformation—but the Age of the Georges is vanished for ever.

